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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

After Friday's hearing, do you support Kilili's HR 1466 to grant status to certain groups of people in the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Hadzic Falls

The last Serbian fugitive sought by the U.N. is finally arrested.

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Wheeled Turtle

Watch out Mr. Hare, this tortoise has a wheel.

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Insane Party

Joe's Bar opens its doors for a party that is as insane as "Jersey Shore."

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'Fully developed casino industry could rake in $500M a year' PAGE 4

State of emergency at CHC

» Tinian, Rota health centers included in declaration

» CHC has nearly $3 million in unpaid bills

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Commonwealth Health Center was placed under a state of emergency yesterday afternoon by acting governor Eloy S. Inos, less than three months before the Oct. 1 deadline for it to transition to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

This marks the second time that the hospital was placed under a state of emergency. The first time was in 2009 and only covered the hospital and the Department of Public Health.

The new declaration now also covers the Tinian and Rota health centers and was made because of the "imminent threat of disruption in the delivery of critical healthcare services and its ability to keep the doors open to 'healthcare facilities' due to a severe cash shortage."

This cash shortage, the declaration said, has resulted in arrears in payments to vendors of pharmaceutical, medical, dialysis, and food supplies.

"If these vendors are not paid, the healthcare facilities would be unable to furnish necessary medicines to its patients. In many instances this would result in immediate life-threatening risks to patients, particularly newborn premature infants with special dietary needs," the emergency declaration reads.

It said a number of vendors have al-

See CHC on Page 4

COST OF TRAVELING

Passengers line up to board a United Continental plane at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. United Continental announced last week that customers who purchase certain economy-class tickets on or after July 15, 2011, for travel on or after Aug. 15, 2011 will pay a service fee of $70 to check a second bag. The changes to United Continental's checked baggage policy cover customers traveling between Micronesia and the mainland U.S., Canada and U.S. territories such as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Acting Rota mayor fires health center chief

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Acting Rota mayor Arvin C. Ogo fired without cause the resident director of the island's heath center, Crispin M. Ayuyu, on Tuesday.

In the termination notice issued to Ayuyu, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Ogo did not explain the reason for the termination and only cited a provision of the CNMI Constitution.

"In the capacity as acting mayor of Rota pursuant to Article VI section 7(4) of the Commonwealth Constitution, this letter represents formal notice that your employment with the Rota Health Center is terminated, effective immediately," Ogo told Ayuyu in the letter.

According to Article VI Section 7(4)

See ACTING on Page 4

Entire Apple stores being faked in China

By LOUISE WATT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING (AP)—At first, it looks like a sleek Apple store. Sales assistants in blue T-shirts with the company's logo chat to customers. Signs advertising the iPad 2 hang from the white walls. Outside, the famous logo sits next to the words "Apple Store."

And that's the clue it's fake.

China, long known for producing counterfeit consumer gadgets, software and brand name clothing, has reached a new piracy milestone—fake Apple stores.

An American who lives in Kunming in southern Yunnan province said

See APPLE on Page 4

Local

Rota lawmaker wants updated CPI for island

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) has asked the Commerce Department for an updated Consumer Price Index report for Rota.

In his letter to Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar, Ayuyu said the people of Rota need more food stamp assistance but couldn't ask for more funds from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs until a recalculated CPI is conducted.

"We need the CPI because there's a timeline for federal requests for funding. DCCA is the agency requesting for any additional food stamp assistance for our people and not having that, we would never be justified on any request that DCCA is requesting to increase Rota recipients," he said.

He said the U.S. Department of Agriculture cannot offer assistance until an updated CPI is released this year. Unless this is done, Rota could not avail of enough funding for its food stamp program, he added.

"The longer we wait for the CPI, the longer DCCA will be underfunded and our people will suffer. Meanwhile, prices and the cost of living in the CNMI will continue to rise," he said. ***(Mark Rabago)***

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Judge hears Jorgensen's request to proceed with suit vs Fund

The federal court yesterday placed under advisement attorney Bruce Jorgensen's motion to lift the court's order that stayed the proceedings in his lawsuit against Gov. Benigno Fitial and the NMI Retirement Fund over alleged non-payment of his two clients' retirement benefits.

After listening to the arguments by counsels, U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Q. Hayes said he will issue a decision later.

Jorgensen argued telephonically on behalf of his two unnamed clients. Attorney Braddock Huesman argued the Fund's and its board's opposition to lifting the stay. Assistant

See JUDGE on Page 4

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Search continues for missing Chuuk skiff

APRA HARBOR, Guam— The U.S. Coast Guard, Navy, and international partners continue searching for a missing 28-foot fiberglass skiff reported to have 15 passengers on board.

The skiff, with six children and nine adults, was last seen leaving the northern pass of Chuuk lagoon on Monday on a voyage to Ruo Island, a small island within the Murilo Atolls, about 70 nautical miles northeast of Chuuk.

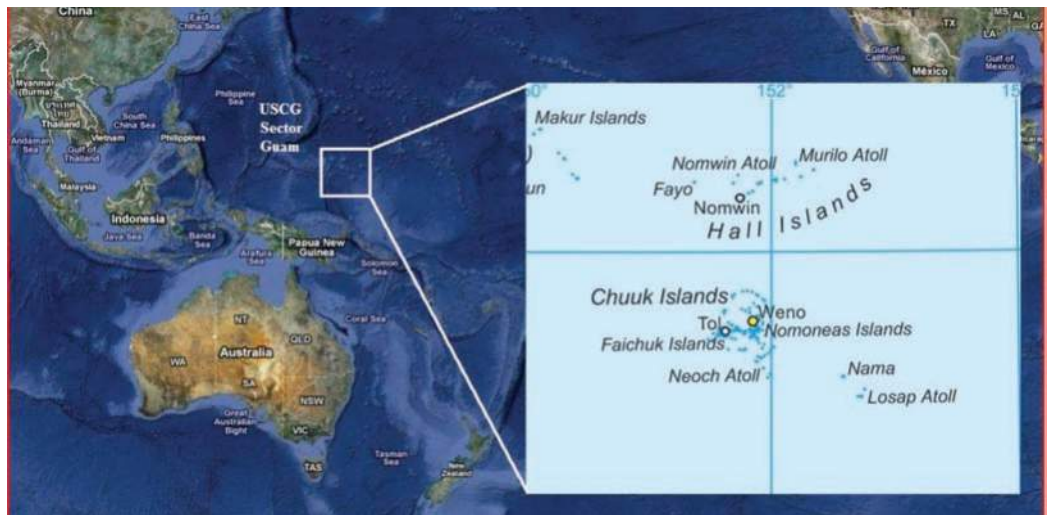
After completing a voyage of over 480 nautical miles from Guam to the search area, Coast Guard cutter *Assateague* has reached the search area where aircraft from both the Coast Guard and Navy have been searching since early Wednesday morning.

Search and rescue assets have been searching for about 35 hours and have combed over 9,300 square nautical miles of ocean. The search area consists of thousands of miles of open ocean, lagoons and small atolls, many of which are uninhabited. Local fishermen throughout the region have taken to the water to help as well, as news spreads of the search.

In an effort to bring every available asset to the search, U.S. Coast Sector Guam used the Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue system to identify commercial vessels in the area that could assist with the search. *Höegh Asia*, a 750-foot cargo ship and participating member of the AMVER program, responded to the request for assistance.

AMVER, sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard, is a unique, computer-based, and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea. With AMVER, rescue coordinators can identity participating ships in the area of distress and divert the best suited ship or ships to respond.

Mariners are reminded to maintain basic safety equipment on board their vessels and make reports of marine emergencies to emergency responders by contacting the Coast Guard Sector Guam Command Center on VHF Channel 16, or by calling 671-564-USCG. ***(USCG)***



Above is an image of Chuuk State and the surrounding atolls that encompass of portion of the Federated States of Micronesia. The 28-foot skiff departed from Weno, indicated on the image by a yellow circle. The vessel was headed for Ruo Island, a small island within the Murilo Atolls which can be seen to the north.

File Photo of the Höegh Asia, a participating AMVER vessel from Norway that has agreed to assist in the search for the 28-foot skiff.

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'Fully developed casino industry could rake in $500M a year'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Even with a threat of lawsuit, the House of Representatives' most vocal casino proponent vows to champion the revenue-generating measure and even promised that a fully developed casino industry on Saipan could bring in as much as $500 million annually to the Commonwealth.

"Fully developed easily $500 million a year in revenues," said Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

He said the CNMI can no longer depend on what worked in the past when "sun and sand to go swimming" was all it took to entice tourists to the islands.

'There's nothing more attractive than casinos. Right now, we don't have to build more new hotels if we just depend on the regular tourists—tourists that come here just to relax and go swimming. We don't need new facilities anymore. [But] once we have casinos the casinos will attract all the new investments, first-class investments," said Tenorio.

The first-term congressman said a fully developed casino industry would lure high-rollers to Saipan and invigorate the battered economy. "Once we have casinos, the high-rollers will come over here with $30,000, $40,000, and $50,000 in their pockets."

Tenorio said casino investors will not only bring gambling to Saipan but family entertainment as well.

He made an example of Las Vegas and said that Saipan can have multiple Sandcastles only if gambling is allowed on the island, referring to the magic and vaudeville show at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

It is also his hope that once casino operations are approved, the son of Macau casino magnate Stanley Ho will visit and explore opportunities on Saipan.

House Speaker Eli D. Cabrera (R-Saipan) said the CNMI should put in mind that U.S. investors' licenses in Macau will expire in 10 years and geographically the Commonwealth could be an ideal place to relocate their businesses.

"Guess where they want to go? They know their players, they know their high-rollers. [We] are hoping they can relocate here," he said.

Rep. Stanley M. Torres' (Ind-Saipan) House Local Bill 17-44, which seek to legalize casino operations on Saipan, is pending at the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation. Its chairman, Ramon Tebuteb (R-Saipan) said he will convene the delegation once amendments to Torres' bill are finalized.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Saipan), meanwhile, said that rumors of the upper chamber willing to compromise with the Saipan delegation on the casino bill are false.

"I never had a meeting with Froilan Tenorio. I don't know about the Senate compromising with the House on the Saipan casino bill because I haven't met with any House members. If they ever push for this we will follow through with our promise to file a lawsuit. We will get a lawyer to challenge that local bill in the courts," he said.

Cabrera said it is the Senate's prerogative to file a lawsuit against the delegation, adding that he will not go against what Saipan lawmakers want if the local casino bill has the votes.

"If SNILD has the votes, what can we do, what can I say," he said, but added that the CNMI's revenue is down to $102 million and that's optimistic. "I hope we can collect that much. The way it is now, it's just almost impossible to find new money."

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos said he wants to see amendments to Torres' bill before he can comment on the casino bill.

"At this point is still under deliberation. I'm waiting to see what kind of recommendation they will come up with. At least I want to see a draft of the recommendations and whatever amendments that they plan to do on the bill."

Suspect in driver's license scam case arrested again

Mohammad Jahangir Miah, one of the five suspects in a driver's license scam at the Department of Public Safety, was arrested again on July 16 for allegedly threatening to hurt his former wife at a residence in As Lito.

Miah was arrested for disturbing the peace and contempt. He was eventually released from the Department of Corrections on July 18, according to the U.S. Probation Office.

Miah, however, also filed a complaint against his wife's boyfriend, Calistro Crisostimo, who was arrested that same day, July 16. Miah complained that Crisostimo called him on the phone and threatened that if he brings his son again to his (Crisostimo) house, he would kill the boy.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola stated in his report filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday that Miah also called police last July 15 at 1:39am after someone allegedly threw something at the back side of his room, breaking the window.

Arriola said a responding police officer found marijuana debris on the ground and a marijuana plant was discovered at the back of the house. Arriola said that Miah denied owning the marijuana plant.

Arriola said the officer noted in his report that he destroyed the marijuana plant and discarded it in a trash bin.

The probation officer said that during his interview with Miah on July 18, Miah said he was arrested because he was not able to show to the police a court order that lifted a temporary restraining order issued against him to stay away from his former wife.

Arriola also said that Miah had stated that the officer took the marijuana plant as well as a black plastic bag that contained several marijuana branches. Arriola said that Miah alleged that the officer told him, "Don't tell anyone, this is my own."

Assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler recently asked the court to detain Miah as he keeps violating his terms of pretrial release by committing other crimes.

Miah is currently on pre-trial release awaiting a Sept. 12, 2011, trial date in the driver's license scam case. His four-co-defendants have already pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

APPLE

From Page 1

Thursday that she and her husband stumbled on three shops masquerading as bona fide Apple stores in the city a few days ago. She took photos and posted them on her BirdAbroad blog.

The three stores are not among the authorized resellers listed on Apple Inc.'s website. The maker of the iPhone and other hit gadgets has four company stores in China—two in Beijing and two in Shanghai—and various official resellers. Apple's Beijing office declined to comment.

The proliferation of the fake stores underlines the slow progress that China's government is making in countering a culture of a rampant piracy and widespread production of bogus goods that is a major irritant in relations with trading partners.

China's Commerce Minister promised American executives earlier this year that the latest in a string of crackdowns on product piracy would deliver lasting results.

The 27-year-old blogger, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the setup of the stores was so convincing that the employees themselves seemed to believe they worked for Apple.

"It looked like an Apple store. It had the classic Apple store winding staircase and weird upstairs sitting area. The employees were even wearing those blue T-shirts with the chunky Apple name tags around their necks," she wrote on her blog.

"But some things were just not right: the stairs were poorly made. The walls hadn't been painted properly. Apple never writes 'Apple Store' on its signs—it just puts up the glowing, iconic fruit."

A worker at the fake Apple store on Zhengyi Road in Kunming, which most of the photos of the BirdAbroad blog show, told The Associated Press that they are an "Apple store" before hanging up.

The manager of an authorized reseller in Kunming, who gave only his surname, Zhang, said most customers have no idea the stores are fake.

Some of the staff in the stores "can't even operate computers properly or tell you all the functions of the mobile phone," he said.

"There are more and more of these fake stores in Kunming. Although they may sell real Apple products, some of those products were not imported through legal means. And they cost more."

CHC

From Page 1

ready stopped deliveries to CHC and the Tinian and Rota health centers and many more are threatening to do the same because of the lack of payment.

The shortage of supplies, meanwhile, has resulted in physicians unable to furnish many services that may only be safely furnished by a hospital.

"The Commonwealth Health Center is the only hospital in the Commonwealth. The entirety of the population of the Commonwealth would be placed at potential risk should the Commonwealth Health Center be unable to function, particularly those needing emergency medical services," the emergency declaration adds.

On top of these, many Medicaid physicians and suppliers have not been paid, the CNMI Medical Referral program is in serious jeopardy, and many travel agents that arrange for medical referral transport will no longer deal with the Medical Referral Office because of the cash shortage, the declaration continued.

Proper cleansing and operation of the reverse osmosis water machines essential for dialysis treatment, drinking water for patients and staff, laundry services, and cleaning supplies, among others, are also affected by the cash shortage.

In all, the emergency declaration states that revenues are insufficient to cover operating costs and that CHC has nearly $3 million in unpaid bills.

Inos signed the state of emergency declaration a couple of hours after Senate Standing Committee on Health and Welfare chair Sen. Ralph DLG. Torres (R-Saipan) sent him a letter requesting a medical emergency at CHC.

Torres' letter came after he and Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) paid a visit to CHC last July 19 and found that the "hospital is incapable of providing basic medical supplies and services to our people."

He wrote in his letter to Inos that the CHC laboratory lacks medical supplies and 21 different kinds of reagents necessary for tests such as etoh, carbamazapine, cultures (except blood), and creatinine.

Torres also wrote that CHC's emergency room lacks physicians necessary to treat emergency patients and those who were available are "incapable of properly diagnosing and treating patients to prevent disability and death because important diagnostic tests such as CBC, cultures, lytes, kidney tests, and heart attack tests are not available at CHC."

Because the CHC laboratory is unable to perform diagnostic tests, patients are asked to bring their specimens to the Diagnostic Laboratory Services for testing, Torres said. DLS, however, will not accept specimens from CHC because of nonpayment of services rendered to CHC. "This causes longer delays in diagnosis and treatment."

He also lamented that the new dialysis center is still not open. "Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta informed the Senate that he is extremely concerned about the status of the new dialysis center because over $12 million [Capital Improvement Project] funds have already been invested in the new facility."

The senator also said the crisis is compounded by the fact that the bill that extends the law mandating the transition of the Department of Public Health into the new Commonwealth Health Corp. to Oct. 11, 2011, has yet to be acted on by the House of Representatives.

Even with Inos' state of emergency declaration, the Saipan lawmaker said he still plans to push through with an emergency informal meeting on the issue today at 9:30pm in the Senate chamber. DPH officials, the Procurement and Supply director, and the secretary of Finance have been invited to take part in the discussion.

ACTING

From Page 1

of the Commonwealth Constitution, "When a mayor is unable to discharge the duties of office by reason of physical or mental disability, the presiding officer of the municipal council shall be acting mayor. If the presiding officer is not available, another member shall be selected by the council to serve."

Saipan Tribune tried to contact Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, who is off-island, but he didn't answer this reporter's calls.

Crispin Ayuyu, when contacted yesterday, declined to comment. Ogo was unavailable when contacted several times at his office.

Acting governor Eloy Inos summoned Ogo yesterday to the Office of the Governor to shed light on the termination but Ogo failed to show up.

"Acting governor Inos did request for a meeting with acting mayor Ogo for purposes of clarifying what may have triggered the recent decision that was handed down regarding the termination of the RHC resident director. Because the RHC is a critical institution that directly deals with the health and welfare of the people of Rota, it is only prudent and proper that the administration is made fully aware of the details surrounding such changes that are being effectuated," said press secretary Angel Demapan.

As of press time, the meeting has not taken place and Inos is still waiting for a response from the acting mayor.

Ogo is the island's customs officer and the vice chairperson of the Rota Municipal Council.

Saipan Tribune learned that Mendiola appointed Ogo as acting mayor on Monday. A day later, Ogo issued the termination paper to Ayuyu and named Dr. James W. Toskas, one of the two physicians at the Rota Health Center, as acting resident director.

Rota lawmakers either refused to comment on the issue or did not answer their phones when contacted several times yesterday.

Private sources told *Saipan Tribune* that Ayuyu's termination was the result of a "falling out" with the current mayor.

Sources disclosed that Ayuyu had been trying to help the health center's nurses get their long-delayed salary and had recommended to Mendiola the reprogramming of some of the municipality's "lapsed funds." He believes that the mayor has the full authority to reprogram the funds for this purpose.

Ayuyu earlier disclosed that based on his research, the health center's budget has lapsed funds from previous months that may be used to pay the nurses. He wrote Mendiola to express frustration about the mayor's earlier statement that "no funds are available for RHC because the higher ups did reprogram and have exhausted any and all amount."

Rota Health Center reportedly owes its five nurses and one medical laboratory technician about $100,000 in wages.

JUDGE

From Page 2

attorney general Meaghan Hassel-Shearer argued on behalf of the CNMI government. The hearing lasted only about 10 to 15 minutes.

Jorgensen had asked the court to lift the stay order so that he could proceed with his lawsuit.

Huesman said it is the Fund's and its board's view that lifting the stay at this time is improper as they have a pending appeal with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit over the federal court's order denying the Fund's motion to dismiss Jorgensen's lawsuit.

The Fund's board of trustees and its three board members recently asked the federal court to sanction Jorgensen for improper allegations. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Sentencing of ex-cop in 'ice' trafficking case delayed anew

The federal court ordered again yesterday another delay in the sentencing of a former police officer who had pleaded guilty to meth trafficking charges.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Q. Hayes set the new sentencing of Florencio Quitugua Richards to Aug. 24, 2011, at 10:30am. Hayes approved the delay after Richards, through counsel Michael Evangelista, objected to the presentence investigation report.

The sentencing was supposed to take place today, Friday. It has already been moved twice at the request of the U.S. Probation Office so it could complete its presentence investigation report.

Yesterday, Hayes decided to move the sentencing to Aug. 24 to give both the U.S. Probation Office and the U.S. Attorney's Office more time to respond to Richards' objections to the presentence investigation report.

Evangelista told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the delay was "unavoidable."

He said that based on their review of the presentence investigation report, they feel strongly that there were several issues of concerns that merit their objection.

"My client has been performing and responding exceptionally well in his counseling and substance abuse treatment regiment, and has abided faithfully to all his presentence release conditions," Evangelista said.

He said Richards will continue with treatment and that they are excited about the progress they have seen and continue to see.

Richards pleaded guilty on Feb. 9, 2011, to conspiracy to distribute "ice," distribution of "ice," and possession of a firearm by a prohibited person. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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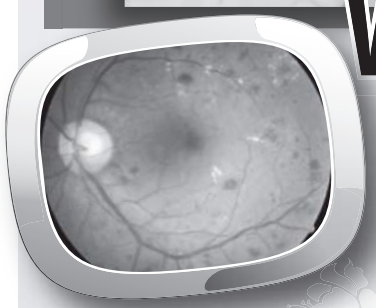

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Merrill Lynch got $3.8M commission in 10 years

» Investment consultant fee for FY 2010 totaled $135K

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's former investment consultant, Merrill Lynch, received a total of $3.8 million in commissions during the 10-year period it served the Commonwealth's pension program.

Responding to a *Saipan Tribune* Open Government Act request, Fund administrator Richard Villagomez disclosed yesterday that Merrill Lynch was paid a total of $3,797,124 in commissions as chief adviser for the Fund's investment portfolio.

It advised the Fund board on long-term investment strategies, allocation of assets, types and extent of long-term risks the Fund should be exposed to, management of risks, and the selection, monitoring, and retention of outside investment managers.

Merrill Lynch ended its service with the Fund in October 2010; it was replaced by Wilshire Associates.

Villagomez said that Merrill Lynch's cumulative $3.8 million commission covered fiscal years 2000 through 2009. A part of the fee, $1,079,351, represents the investment consultant's fee for the period. Merrill Lynch was also paid $135,534 as investment consultant fee in fiscal year 2010, Villagomez said.

The former consultant was paid at 3 basis points or .0003 percent of 1 percent of the total value of the portfolio being handled.

He refused to disclose other financial information and transactions made with Merrill Lynch due to the ongoing litigation.

The Fund is suing Merrill Lynch for allegedly providing the board of trustees defective investment advice that resulted in a significant loss in the pension portfolio of retirees, amounting to almost $150 million in 2009 alone.

Because the former consultant received compensation in "soft dollars" up until at least the end of June 2009, this created a conflict of interest, the Fund said. "Soft dollar" compensation is based on trade commissions that exceed the compensation it would receive under a "hard dollar" arrangement.

Merrill Lynch is being sued for breach of trust, breach of fiduciary duty, negligence, malpractice, and unjust enrichment.

SSHS alumna wins APIASF scholarship

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A recent graduate of Saipan Southern High School has been awarded a $2,500 grant by the Asia & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund.

Jove Jenn Maalihan Taman, daughter of Majie and Simeon Maalihan, said she applied for the financial assistance in January this year and is elated and grateful to learn that she has been chosen to receive the award.

Taman

"I feel very proud of myself and I am very glad that I was named for this scholarship. It's a great help for my [college] studies," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

The financial grant will be awarded for the 2011-2012 academic school year.

The 17-year-old student graduated from high school last month. Taman said she will be attending University of Hawaii at Hilo to pursue a degree in nursing.

APIASF, the nation's largest nonprofit organization devoted solely to providing college scholarships to Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders, is awarding for the first time ever $1.2 million in scholarships to more than 500 students for the 2011-2012 academic school year.

In a statement from the organization, it said that its scholarships—ranging from $2,500 to $8,000 individually—are given to deserving high school and college students with which many of whom are the first in their family to attend college.

With a goal of providing a critical bridge to higher education for students across the country, APIASF's scholarships are intended to make a difference in the lives of Asia and Pacific Islands students by providing them with resources that increase their access to higher education.

"Our primary focus is to provide scholarships to AAPI students and offer guidance, mentorship, and programs to facilitate their academic success, leadership, and professional growth," said APIASF president and executive director Neil Horikoshi in a statement.

The organization said the 2011-2012 APIASF scholarship class will be attending more than 200 colleges and universities around the country. Many students have plans to pursue various fields of study including anthropology, biology, dentistry, international relations, marketing, political science, sociology, and even zoology.

APIASF manages two scholarship programs: the general APIASF Scholarship and the Gates Millennium Scholars Program/Asian Pacific Islander Americans funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Since 2003, the organization has provided recipients more than $40 million in scholarship grants.

Magnitude-6.2 quake shakes Solomons

NEW YORK (AP)—A magnitude-6.2 earthquake rattled the Solomon Islands in the Pacific Ocean northeast of Australia on Thursday morning, the U.S. Geological Survey reported.

There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries, and no tsunami warning was issued. The GeoSciences Australia agency said a quake that strong could cause damage within 23 miles (37 kilometers).

The 9:05 a.m. (2205 Wednesday GMT) quake was 33.9 miles (54.5 kilometers) deep and the epicenter was 17 miles (27 kilometers) northeast of Kira Kira in the Solomon Islands, the USGS said.

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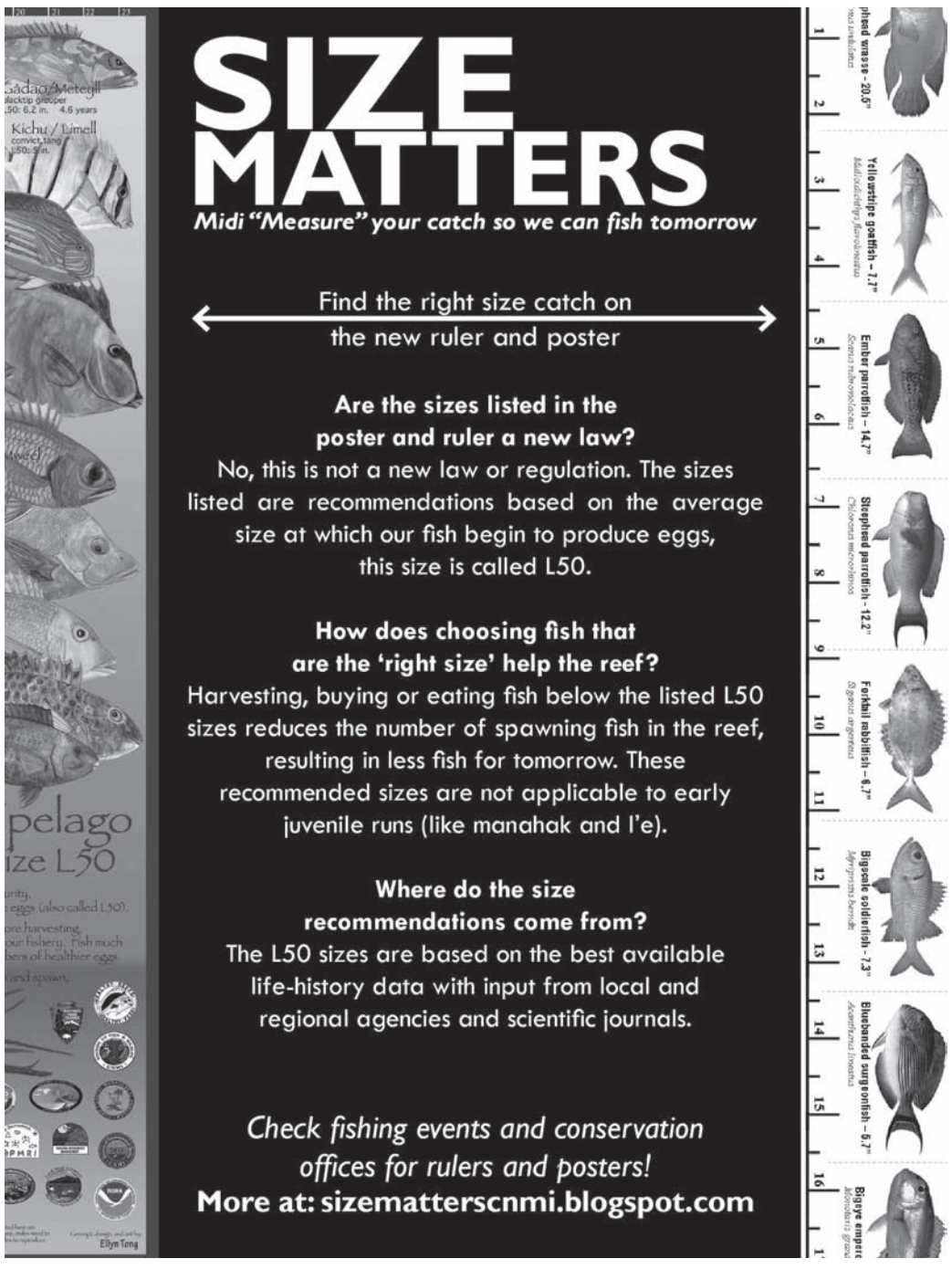
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Ellyn Tong

CPA lauds recall of new airport and seaport rates

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero lauded yesterday the decision of Rep. Ray Yumul to recall his bill proposing to increase airport and seaport rates.

Yumul's House Bill 17-199 was proposing to impose up to $25 fees on passengers landing at CNMI airports and seaports in a bid to generate more than $3 million that the central government could use to restore the timely payroll and 80 work hours of government employees.

"I am very glad that Rep. Yumul rescinded this bill and considered all the comments of the public and the ports authority. What he proposed was similar to a previous bill we countered [in the past Legislature]. Our main concern is it violates federal regulations pertaining to the passenger facility charges [we collect]," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said that CPA was finalizing its written response to the measure when they were told that Yumul had recalled the bill.

Deleon Guerrero reaffirmed the board's decision not to increase any CPA fees in these times of financial distress. "We remain committed in our plan not to impose new or increased rates in our fees," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

CPA last increased its seaport rates and charges in February 2009; airport fees were last adjusted in 2008.

Despite the agency's financial bind, the CPA board opted to implement cost-cutting measures such as conserving energy costs and freezing hiring and travels just to maintain the 80-hour works of its 198 employees. The agency is also aggressively collecting payments and fees to generate needed funds.

Yumul's withdrawal of the bill came after acting governor Eloy Inos made his position on the bill known on Monday. Inos told *Saipan Tribune* that CPA should be heavily involved in any talks relating to proposed increases of CPA rates.

Meantime, Deleon Guerrero made a site visit to Tinian yesterday to check the ongoing projects of both its airport and seaport.

He said that CPA fully supports the emergency repair of the Tinian harbor. Four of the harbor's bollards are in danger of collapsing anytime soon. Deleon Guerrero said a meeting with the local delegation was also held yesterday on Tinian.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 22, 1999

CNMI included in Y2K legislation
The CNMI and other insular areas have been included in the scope of the Y2K legislation, a measure that seeks to protect small businesses and other entities from costly lawsuits that might arise from year 2000 computer failures. The Y2K measure was transmitted by the US Congress to President Clinton via e-mail. The President is expected to sign the bill next week through digital signature technology, making it the first legislation to be signed without the use of paper or ink. The early version of the legislation excluded the CNMI and other insular areas threatening to leave them unprotected from the costly Y2K litigation. According to the Governor's Office, the inclusion of the Northern Marianas in the bill was made upon representation by the CNMI's Washington D.C. attorney Thomas Crowe.

PSS prepares contingency for budget cut
Unable to commit higher spending limit for the Public School System, legislators yesterday turned a budget hearing on the agency into an opportunity to make demands and pitch improvement for schools in their respective precincts. PSS officials, however, pleaded for another $10 million on top of the $38.7 million set aside by the Tenorio administration under its proposed spending package for Fiscal Year 2000. Failure to infuse additional money would mean impact on the quality of education on the island and the delivery of services to thousands of children attending public schools, they told legislators during the day-long hearing.

July 22, 2002

Bank of Saipan report to be unveiled
Independent financial advisors and consultants tapped by court-appointed Bank of Saipan receiver Randall T. Fennell are reportedly ready to make a presentation on the bank's current status and present possible options for its future. Fennell, in an ex parte motion filed before the Superior Court Friday, proposed to slate the presentations at the end of the month—first before the governor and his staff and then to the general public. The suggested schedule for the presentations were July 29 at 1:30pm, at the Office of the Governor and July 30 at 10am, at Courtroom 202A of the CNMI House of Justice in Susupe.

SEDC: Focus on keeping garment industry here
The Strategic Economic Development Council is urging the CNMI government to implement measures that would ensure the continued stay of the garment industry beyond 2004. These include a reduction in the value-added requirement under federal control and a plan to seek pre-clearance of apparel products in Saipan before actual shipment. In a letter to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, SEDC Chair Joseph F. Camacho said that, rather than focusing on the apparel manufacturers' supposedly impending flight from the Commonwealth in 2004, much can be done to focus on ways to maintain the current revenue stream from the industry.

July 22, 2003

CHC autonomy proposal passes House
The House of Representatives sealed its approval Friday to legislation that proposes to make the Commonwealth's lone public hospital self-sustaining, in a plan that involves reliance on the Commonwealth Health Center's own cost recovery abilities. Among others, House Bill 13-86, authored by House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider, proposes the creation of a board of trustees that would transform CHC into a public corporation that would depend primarily on fees and charges to run its operations. The House Committee on Health and Welfare, in a report, endorsed the passage of HB 13-86, Committee Substitute 1, which was subsequently adopted by the full House during a session.

Need to complete prison project pressed
The government has identified a little over $1 million to cover the next couple of billings owed to the prison project contractor, Telesource CNMI Inc., acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente assured yesterday. For the rest of the funding shortfall, however, Benavente is counting on both houses of the Legislature to come to an agreement on the pending legislation that would finally complete the prison project. "I'm concerned about the letters that's been going back and forth and, of course, our inability to pay on time. For the next month's billing, we've been able to identify a little over a million dollars. But approval has been kind of slow coming from the OIA," he said.

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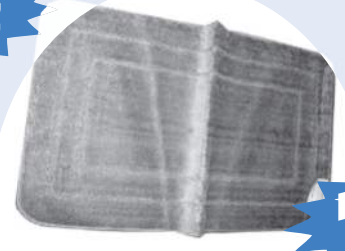

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Opinion

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Immigrants: Building US competitiveness

By GARY LOCKE and CARLOS GUTIERREZ
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

America's economic future depends on the strength and innovative capacity of our people. We must make the American workforce the strongest in the world. That means educating and training our people. It also means ensuring we continue to bring to our shores those individuals with the skills, innovative capacity and entrepreneurial energy to create the jobs of the future.

America in the 21st century needs a 21st-century immigration policy that meets our national security needs, but also our diverse economic needs. It's an economic imperative.

Today, Democrats and Republicans agree that the immigration system we have is broken, but we need to translate that agreement into action. The jobs of the future are at stake.

And it's clear why. Immigrants have started some of our nation's most successful businesses.

According to the National Venture Capital Association, immigrants have started 25 percent of U.S. public companies that were venture-backed—including Google, eBay, Yahoo!, Sun Microsystems and Intel. Further, immigrant-founded, venture-backed public companies employ 220,000 people in the United States. Meanwhile, immigrant inventors or co-inventors have contributed to more than a quarter of U.S. global patent applications.

The right kind of immigration policy means more jobs for Americans at home and greater competiveness for American companies abroad. Unfortunately, that's not the policy we now have. But we know what it would look like.

For one thing, it would ease the path for the best and brightest foreign students to use their skills to start a business or new industry in the United States.

Each year, we provide approximately 400,000 visas to students from around the world to come here to study at our top universities. According to the National Science Foundation, these students receive between 45 and 60 percent of all engineering, mathematics, computer science, physics and economic doctorates awarded in the United States.

But once our colleges and universities educate these bright, young minds, our immigration laws essentially tell them to take a hike. As President Obama and President Bush have both said, this makes no sense. That's why both have supported changes as a part of efforts to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

We need to encourage top foreign talent in priority fields to stay in the U.S. after their post-graduate study at American universities.

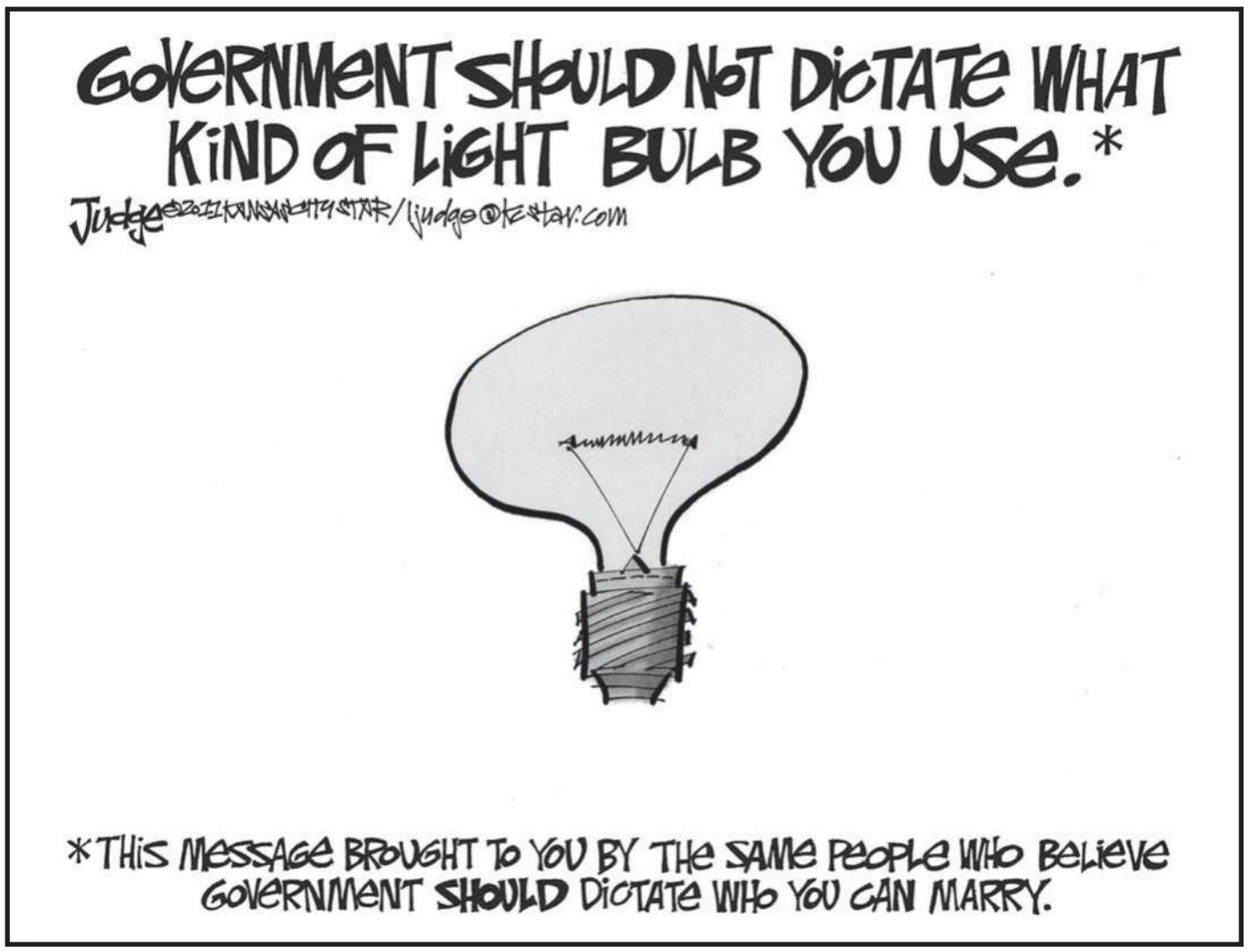
If our nation is going to avoid a reverse "brain-drain" and attract and keep highly-skilled entrepreneurial talent here, we also need to address the visa wait time for educated and skilled professionals.

Only 140,000 EB visas (employment-based green cards) are available annually for immigrants in key employment categories, and the number of visas is capped at 7 percent for each country. In other words, skilled workers from India and China must compete for the same number of visas as those in Iceland and Nepal.

These restrictive caps create an enormous backlog for high skill immigrants from populous countries who have filed for permanent resident visas. They could wait for years or even decades.

In addition, it is difficult for talented entrepreneurs who wish

See IMMIGRANTS on Next Page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Simple trail: Footloose and thumbing

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Walking on Saipan, along with riding a bicycle, would be a pleasant experience and fruitful exercise, given the climate and the fresh ocean breeze accessible all over except on the few valley-like "crevices" like Kannat Tabla.

Disposing of our motor vehicle earlier and acquiring a bicycle while domiciling near Hopwood in San Antonio so that we can traverse the breath and length of Beach Road without difficulty did not work out when we discovered that rain and typhoon dominate half of the year. We moved to Finasisu near NMC thinking that we might teach college level courses. It turned out we did not even qualify to be an instructor in English reading. Not griping, just acknowledging that ours is an island enamored with "proper certification."

It is whe-e-e-e delight going downhill on a bike, but it does take effort to get back up the hill even when we skirt around As Perdido Rd. to Msgr. Martinez Blvd. to get back to Finasisu, or brave the 15-degree incline on Chalan Joaquin Doi through Ladera from Chalan Kanoa (walking the bike on the upgrade). But having already lost five bikes to thieves, it did not take much convincing to dispose of the only Schwinn mountain bike we recently acquired since it spent half its life parked.

So Friday, we went back on foot, good for the heartbeat and the blood flow, particularly along the heavily trafficked Msgr. Guerrero Blvd. from NMC where motorists seem to think that pedestrians have no place on the road. On the flat area between the road and wetlands to Lake Susupe is a grassy strip that cushions the feet, save in these rainy days it is more of a mire than a trail for single file. Walking on the asphalted road, on the other hand, seem to inspire target practice for some motorist who try to get as close to our limb as they can. Carbon monoxide is abundant and the prospect of a heart attack is high. On the plus side, the heightened blood pressure exercises the accelerated heartbeat!

Reluctantly, we extended the thumb on As Terlaje last Sunday to see what would happen. It did not take long (less than five minutes) before a Mr. de la Cruz (not his real name) of Dandan decided to perform a good deed. He stopped and actually turned into the parking lot where I was thumbing and asked if I needed a ride.

It turns out (he was not too talkative but given our journalistic propensity to inquire, we managed to strike a conversation) this was his last day in his Dandan residence as he has to move his family of eight (himself, spouse, five boys and a girl—the youngest only 5) to his brother's place near the lagoon, unable to keep up with his mortgage. He had worked for a government office as a handyman for a long while but he has been retrenched (non-essential personnel is the current category he falls into). Deep in debt, having used his properties to collateralize loans when they were cheap and accessible, he could not even withdraw his RF contributions to tide him over. Though not too optimistic, he was not despondent.

Our renminbi was of no use to add to his gas cost so we did not bother to contribute, and gauging from his demeanor, Mr. de la Cruz might have been insulted had we extended the offer. It did make our day to know that in the midst of the crisis Mr. de la Cruz was going through, he saw it fit to lend someone a ride. A simple gesture of an act of compassion, if I might be forgiven the old term!

Only last month, we took the old Shaker tune of our edited version and taught Chinese students a simple song.

SIMPLE GIFT
(Appalachian Spring)

It's a gift to be simple, it's a gift to be free,
It's a gift to belong where bodies want to be,
We find ourselves in the place of delight
In the land of fullness, of light that's bright.

(Refrain) When life's simplicity is gained,
We bow and we bend, we will not be ashamed,
And we turn and we change, we will be just right,
Yes, we turn, we change to the bright new light.

It's a gift to be gentle, it's a gift to be fair,
It's a gift to wake up, to breath the air,
We walk in morning on the way that we choose,
It's a gift to play, we can never lose.

It's a gift to be humble, it's a gift to be kind.
It's a gift to hear the thoughts of others' mind.
We speak our feelings, and we come out true,
that's a gift for me and a gift for you.

It's a gift to be loving, our lives given to all,
Like the rain in spring splashing on its fall.
We use this gift, and we come to see,
That life of loving in China be.

Mr. de la Cruz reinforced that lesson Sunday. I came to see that life of loving in the CNMI be.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

GDP: The optimistic side of things

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. His column runs every Friday.

Definitive information on the Commonwealth's gross domestic product has finally hit the scene, released by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs. The information covers the period from 2002 through 2009. In summary, it shows a steep decline in GDP, and in per-capita GDP, over the period. Despite this decline, however, there is some good news here.

I'm going to look at the good news side of things today. And to balance things out, next time around I'll look at some of the pitfalls the business community faces in the Commonwealth.

I expect that "GDP" will replace "strategic" as the new buzzword in the CNMI. Hey, maybe we could hit all the buzzwords now and say "Strategic GDP diversification youth educational investment empowerment." Wow, slap a cover page on that puppy and you could be an instant kickback consultant here.

Anyway, here are the numbers, from Table 2 of the federal report, which is in real dollars. In 2002, the CNMI's gross domestic product was $1.175 billion. By 2009 it has fallen just about by half to $598 million.

In per-capita terms, the figures are just about as zany. In 2002, per-capita GDP stood at $15,973, for a (rounded to the nearest hundred) population of 74,400. By 2009, the population shrank to (again rounded) 51,500, and per-capita GDP fell, yes, fell, to $11,612.

Let me utter an "I told you so." As far back as 1998 and 1999, I noted, in this very column, that if the Commonwealth didn't develop its package tourism industry (and it didn't) and if it didn't parlay its manufacturing action into other meaningful activity (and it didn't), the economy would shrink substantially and become government supported.

Which is exactly what happened. In fact, according to the same data, again, real dollars, government spending, at $305 million, comes to over half (51 percent) of GDP as of 2009. Wow, is that cool or what? And, was I right, or what? (Yeah.)

No matter how you look at the numbers, just about everything is an echo of generous federal support, one way or the other. I mean, where else could the money really come from? Financially, we call this the "multiplier" effect, as money cascades through the economy, and it's hard to tell where it really came from in the first place.

I think the point is easier to make conceptually. So, ponder what would happen if the feds cut this place off without a dime, and without defense support, without transportation administration, without FDIC insurance for banks, without public health expertise, without search and rescue services, without postal services, without a federal court system and law enforcement services, and so on.

Who would dare invest? Heck, who would dare visit? You think the top Asian tour agents would book clients into such a situation? Well, go ahead and ask them. I already have.

Anyway, back to the numbers at hand, and, in fact, tourism. Tourism, insofar as it's classified as an export of services, is only about one-quarter (28 percent) of CNMI GDP.

As for the closing of the garment factories, this is specifically mentioned in the GDP report, so there's no mystery there. Leave me out of any arguments on that note; I'm not a part of that scrap.

In fact, the garment thing is so hot-button that it masks a far more important fact, and that fact is that an industry-based economy is not going to fly here, garments or no garments. The Commonwealth's people don't want that system. They want the current system. Which is fine with me, I'm not an advocate for any type of system; I forecast the economic weather, I don't try to change it. Big difference.

Let's get to the happy news. Despite the falling GDP, the fact is that we've got an economy that produces so little it barely moves the needle, and yet which has a per-capita GDP that exceeds that of about 135 of the world's nations, as well as exceeding the world average. Money for nothing! Much of the world faces brutal, hopeless toil just to eat. But we don't. Why not? Like I say: windfall.

Although the opportunities for large industry are small to nil in the CNMI, there are some very solid niche plays here, and will be as long as the federal government keeps sending out money.

I cut my teeth in a similar regional economy. So this is familiar turf.

You don't need net growth to have a business opportunity. All you need is turnover in the ownership of businesses, and, trust me, there will continue to be turnover on this note, a point I'll hit when I note the "pitfall" side of things. Stay tuned.

Meanwhile, here's the bottom line: Despite the fall in GDP, the Commonwealth is in far better economic shape than its low level of productivity would otherwise provide.

Letters to the Editor

Fear is here

Many months ago there was a small group of local folks that met several times to talk about making a future vision for the CNMI. Our leader organized the group of about 20 people and we made good progress toward defining the things that in an ideal "life" we would like to see become the norm for the CNMI. The list was long and somewhat of a dream, but the group felt good about what we were doing and participation in the meetings was good!

One of many topics we discussed was we wanted to have "Freedom from Fear" in the CNMI! At first we did not fully understand what that meant. Some group members did not agree that this would even be a good topic for us to put into the "vision" statement. But as time has passed the level of fear in the CNMI has increased, and I am sorry to say that we have now reached the point where fear is causing serious problems for our society.

The most recent event that has caused great fear on Saipan is the two missing girls. They are innocent children who have disappeared for no reason. The sadness of the community and the fear that all parents now have that their own kids could also become victims, this event has made our people age with worry. Who did this thing and why is it this devil cannot be caught creates more fear for all.

As horrible as this event has been, there are others that also generate fear. For example, the young girl that got raped by multiple persons on her way to school. It is known who these people are, but still they are not punished. How can parents accept this slow movement of justice? The people who did this crime are still walking the roads of Saipan. There is fear that it could happen again, that is easily understood.

There are many other examples of fear living in our community. People are afraid to speak their minds. For example when I have taken polls and opinion surveys, it sometimes takes me five people to find one that will sign the paper. I have asked, you support the proposal but why not sign? Sometimes the answer is, "My family owns a business and I am afraid that if my name appears on the list it could hurt them," or "I work for the government and I do not want to lose my job," or "I support the position, but I want to ask my parents first." There is fear to be honest and open to express opinions. The reason appears to be that some people in our government will retaliate if "crossed"; a job given by a politician can also be taken away. It is intimidation in the worst form and people have fear of losing their jobs and livelihood. Even some parents intimidate their adult kids to think only like them.

The laws of the CNMI do not seem to treat the people equally. It is often the case that jury trials can be unfair if it is a "local" vs. an "outsider". Minor situations can to go to trial with the use of lawyers and the associated expenses. People fear that this situation may fall upon them for no other reason than to extract money from the deepest pocket. The local insurance companies do not like to offer high payout policies on liability protection because of these sometimes frivolous lawsuits.

I could go on and on with examples of how fear lives in the CNMI. One only needs to go to the local newspapers to get examples. The real issue is how can we change to become a community that is "free of fear." The leadership in our churches, schools, businesses, and government need to come together and face this huge problem directly. They need to ask the hard questions: "why" fear happens, "what" steps must be taken to help our community, "how" do we take actions that make change happen for good, releasing us from fear.

Our government is failing to help remove fear from our lives. In reality our government is failing the people of the CNMI. Government seems to be the source of many problems that result in fear. They do not seek help from our other leaders in the community to collaborate together to create the good changes we need. Our people are becoming fearful and depressed, I can understand why. For example, the people have voted twice not to allow casinos on Saipan, but some legislators still want to force casinos on the people, for the benefit of whom? Zoning law is for the benefit of all the people, but zoning seems to be opposed by some in government. Is it personal gain by some special interest? People have a fear that their retirement will not be paid? Who is to blame? The fear of deportation lives with many of our people who have no status. All of us have the fear of not having enough money to pay utility bills. Even simple things like driving on unmarked roads with no center or edge lines create fear for the lack of safety. All of these fears, and many more, are with us while the Legislature spends their time on useless new laws about trash fees, many resolutions, and marijuana. We the people are filled with the fear that our government officials do not seem to understand what to do to help. Ask yourself, can our current government manage the many changes we need?

People must think about these issues and decide if they want change for a better standard of life. Voting for the same "leaders" we have will not bring change. Do the people want to help themselves by voting for new government officials, ones that will dedicate themselves to the well-being of all? Or do we stay where we are, in the deep rut of life that we are in now, to never change, never improve, never realize the best for everyone in the CNMI? Will we live in fear for the rest of our lives? I vote to live without fear and to be free.

Frank Stewart
Capital Hill, Saipan

IMMIGRANTS

From Page 10

to start companies in the United States to enter and remain in the country.

Several approaches have been put forward to reform the current visa system and keep America competitive in the global economy, including:

- Granting a permanent resident visa to a targeted group of qualified foreigners who receive a graduate degree in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) from an accredited U.S. university;
- Making immigrant entrepreneurs eligible for a two-year visa if a U.S. investor is willing to invest in their start-up idea – and then allowing them to become permanent residents if they create full-time jobs in the U.S. and produce revenues within those two years.
- Strengthening existing temporary worker programs like the H-1B program that allows employers to recruit workers from abroad when there are no qualified American workers available, in the process promoting more job mobility for workers.

The rest of the world is not waiting for the U.S. to reform its immigration policies. Our competitors understand that in the 21st century, attracting the best minds means creating the best jobs.

Other countries are continuing to adjust their policies to maintain or expand the flow of high-skill immigrants.

Canada, New Zealand, Australia and the U.K all administer visa programs tailored to attracting entrepreneurs. And China and India are reported to be emulating Taiwan, Ireland and Israel in finding ways to lure home expatriates who work in scientific and technical fields.

As a nation of immigrants, we have always defined ourselves as a place that attracts all those yearning to be free to pursue hopes, dreams, and ideas.

If we don't want to find ourselves playing catch-up in the global competition for the cutting-edge, high-growth industries of tomorrow, we need to do something now.

And the truth is, we can.

Gary Locke is U.S. commerce secretary and Carlos Gutierrez was U.S. commerce secretary under President George W. Bush.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

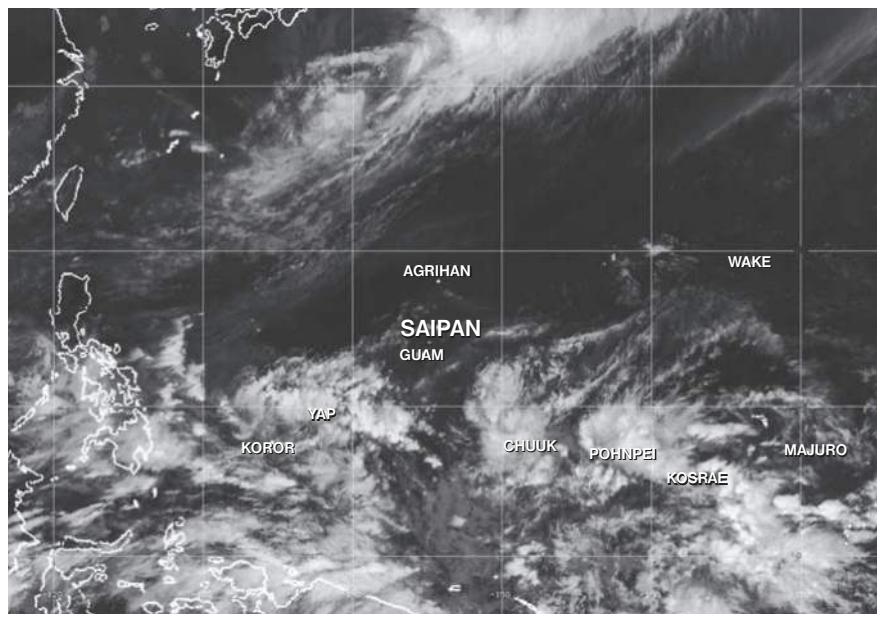
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Palau	Rain	▲84	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲84	▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲83	▼76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲82	▼75
Kosrae	Rain	▲85	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼55
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲89	▼74
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90	▼83
Honolulu	Showers	▲87	▼75
London	Showers	▲69	▼54
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼80
Melbourne	Showers	▲59	▼42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼78
New York	Sunny	▲96	▼79
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲87	▼76
Paris	Showers	▲68	▼52
Pusan	Windy	▲81	▼72
Rome	Sunny	▲86	▼70
Salem	Showers	▲73	▼52
San Francisco	Sunny	▲69	▼57
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲83	▼72
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼70
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲100	▼83

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough stretches from near 14N130E to a circulation just south of Yap near 8N139E to end near 3N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring in a few areas. The first area is south of Palau between the equator and 5N from 130E to 141E. Another area covers Palau and Yap between 7N and 13N from 130E to 145E. A third area covers Chuuk state between 5N and 12N from 148E to 154E and Pohnpei state between 4N and 10N from 154E to 160E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Kosrae between the equator and 8N from 162E to 168E and south of Majuro between 1N and 4N from 168E to 178E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:51 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
12:22 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
6:11 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:19 PM	11:24 AM
Saturday	11:58 PM	12:12 PM
Sunday		1:01 PM
Monday	12:41 AM	1:52 PM
Tuesday	1:27 AM	2:45 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Letter to the Editor

Thank you

The Guam USO wishes to extend its *very deepest appreciation* to Tan Holdings, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, the American Memorial Park, and the incredible people of Saipan for the tremendous welcome received at the July 8 inaugural "Tan Holdings/USO Movies In The Park" held in celebration of Saipan's heroes who have deployed in the War On Terror and their families.

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan and corporate affairs manager Ed Arriola contacted the United Service Organizations approximately six months ago seeking an opportunity to create a unique, fun-filled family event to host for the community of Saipan in honor of the patriotic spirit of the island's people. Through the support of Tan Holdings, its incredible philanthropic subsidiary Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Mr. Tan, Mr. Arriola, corporate affairs assistant Rebecca Tenorio, and their team of volunteers, more than 500 citizens of Saipan enjoyed an incredible evening of free gifts, delicious food, and the awesome movie *Despicable Me*. It was a complete honor for USO to share in this historic event, and we deeply hope there will be many more events to come!

USO also sends out a very special thanks to the Junior ROTC Ayuyu Battalion from Kagman High School who opened the event with a beautiful presentation of the colors under the guidance of Army instructor SFC Anthony Lukeala. What a special honor to also have Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos and Mr. Jerry Tan there on the front row for the movie! USO is also very thankful to Park Ranger Nancy Kelchner and her team at the American Memorial Park for providing such a breathtaking venue for this special occasion.

As I stood atop the stands of the park at dusk and surveyed the beauty of Saipan, I held in my heart the vivid images of war housed below in the museum. As I watched the awesomely polite and grateful citizens of Saipan who poured in to ultimately fill the amphitheater, and listened to the sounds of freedom ring out with the playing of the *Star Spangled Banner* and the CNMI National Anthem I was overwhelmed with emotion and tears of gratitude began to run down my cheeks.

I was thankful for a generous corporation who cared enough about its community to bring such a momentous occasion together. I was humbled by family members of our fallen heroes who had honored us with their presence. I was touched by the respect and response of the people of Saipan in allowing USO to honor them. In a way like no other, Saipan brought to me an even greater and more humble gratitude for the freedom that reigned over the park that evening and that lives throughout our nation every day.

To the beautiful people of Saipan—thank you for welcoming USO in such a memorable way. We hope to return many times. *Un dangkulo na si yu'os ma'åse para todu. Put respetu,*

Leigh Leilani Graham
Director, Guam USO

To view photos of the Tan Holdings/USO Saipan Movies In The Park event, please visit Guam USO on Facebook. If your company would like to support future Tan Holdings/USO Movies In The Park for Saipan, Rota and/or Tinian, please contact Igraham@uso.org. For more information about the USO please visit www.uso.org.

Support for House Local Bill 17-51

Because of the extreme difficulty the CNMI government is experiencing now, I am therefore rendering my support to House Local Bill 17-51, introduced by Rep. Teresita A. Santos of Rota. The bill's intent is to establish a fee by gross laden weight for heavy construction equipment or machineries using public roads within the island of Rota.

There is no doubt that mobilization of heavy equipment and machineries through primary and secondary roads cause damage and deterioration, especially on accessibilities to heavily congested construction areas. Most of the roads' damage have to be alleviated by the Department of Public Works. A lot of expenses for fuel, equipment parts, and manpower have to be shouldered by the Department of Public Works as a result of the repair and restoration of roads. It is very difficult for DPW to carry the burden of repairing the damage on primary and secondary roads left behind by heavy construction equipment and machineries due to the continued reduction in its monthly budget allotment. DPW cannot continue to operate with a budget shortfall. Therefore, I am with Rep. Santos' proposal, as I know very well that such a local bill is one step that will significantly generate revenue through a special account that could assist the municipality and DPW toward the continued maintenance and repair of primary and secondary roads.

It is about time that we take seriously the present financial hardships of our CNMI government and, to continue with the road maintenance operation, we must be creative in supporting any meaningful approach and ways to generate revenue in order to be sustainable in providing delivery of services to the community and the people of Rota. Not only do I support Rep. Santos proposal, but I urged as well our Rota legislative delegation to look into the possibility of seeking ways and means for the FHWA to reimburse DPW for the maintenance and repairs of Federal Aid roads within the island of Rota. The FHWA has relief funding that could perhaps render reimbursement assistance to DPW in order that all designated Federal Aid routes be continuously maintained and repaired. I believe that DPW alone cannot and should not shoulder the maintenance and repair of federal highways that are damaged by heavy construction equipment and machineries.

I am very appreciative of Rep. Santos' initiative in introducing such a bill. I urge and highly recommend for the Rota Legislative Delegation to support House Local Bill 17-51, as the intent is to create a revenue-generating source in order for the municipality and DPW to continue providing the required maintenance and repair of primary and secondary roads within Rota. I look forward to your success and meaningful deliberation on House Local Bill 17-51 by your next session.

Rufo C. Maratita
Sinapalo, Rota

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Letter to the Editor

A troubling tale

I am taking the initiative to write this letter because I am troubled by the experiences of a dear friend, a contract worker, who lives on Saipan. During nearly two decades of life on Saipan, my friend, a bright, soft-spoken, mild-mannered, humble Filipino woman, has been treated like a second-class citizen in various ways and on an ongoing basis. I should mention that my friend doesn't know I am writing this letter, has never written or planned to write such a letter as this. In other words, there is no mini-conspiracy going on here, only a troubled friend here in the States who on many occasions, has been angered by treatment that she describes in such a matter-of-fact manner.

And who am I to raise such concerns? I am a Midwesterner, born in Iowa, living in Wisconsin, a country boy and retired professor who cares about civil and human rights both generally and specifically. I've never set foot on Saipan soil. My information comes from the *Saipan Tribune*, the *Marianas Variety*, the Filipino friend mentioned above, and a small handful of other contract worker friends on Saipan.

Currently my friend does cleaning work for one family, and other odd jobs as she finds them. In her case, (and I would be curious to hear from other contract workers regarding these issues) the $5.05 minimum wage is a joke. My friend currently works about 20 hours per week for an hourly rate that works out to $3.15 per hour. When I've asked her about the process to protest such abuse, she tells me that it is a fruitless effort, since no aggressive action at all is taken. Not only that, people in the appropriate Labor office tend to be ill-tempered and bigoted. She casually states that often, she is expected to work extra hours with no extra pay, with no reason given. On none of her jobs has she been given either a morning or afternoon break. Over the years, most of her employers have been longstanding CMNI residents, though she has worked for a variety of folks, including Americans. Due to her experience with this and past employers, she fears retribution for speaking out, so she elects not to. This is not the American way. Oh, not Americans you say? Well that little federalization thing is a pesky little bugger isn't it?

> *She works very hard, has attention to detail, is on time, and is very responsible. Often, the result is a demand on the part of her employer to do extra work for the same or less pay, which is the current situation. She gives an inch—they take a mile.*

Generally her experience with employers goes like this: She works very hard, has attention to detail, is on time, and is very responsible. Often, the result is a demand on the part of her employer to do extra work for the same or less pay, which is the current situation. She gives an inch—they take a mile. She is routinely treated in a bigoted and racist fashion in the community generally, in government offices, and in the work place. She tolerates it, as I boil with frustration and anger.

I'll sum up with a plea and a statement: First, my plea to contract workers. I know you are being abused in one form or another, and I urge you to let these abuses be known in the form of letters such as this one, and to your congressional representative. And to you CMNI residents who employ contract workers: here's a news flash—contract workers are not inferior to you! They deserve fair treatment and their human and civil rights must be respected and protected. You are not superior beings! I'm amused at the notion that you think you are.

Ray Spicer
Professor emeritus
Omro, Wisconsin

Long wait

We recently had a fantastic family holiday on Saipan. Just one gripe, though. Why does it take so long to clear customs on Saipan and in Guam on arrival? The wait at Saipan to clear customs was ridiculous, something like 40 minutes with only two to three agents working and the line of 200 people stretching up the stairs.

You read about all the unemployment on the islands so why don't they hire more customs agents? It leaves a bad first impression.

Guam was similar several years back. It seems that two to three flights always arrive together but surely they can anticipate this and have appropriate numbers of customs agents ready to promptly clear tourists.

Greg Mettam
Tokyo, Japan

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Saipan native returns home after Iraq deployment

By SPC. ELIZABETH COLE
305TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

FORT SHAFTER FLATS, Hawaii—Saipan native Sgt. James Kennedy D.L.G. Benjamin was greeted with open arms by his family and friends when he arrived in Hawaii after a nearly yearlong deployment to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn, June 27.

Benjamin deployed with the 305th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, of the U.S. Army Reserve's 9th Mission Support Command, to provide critical public affairs support for the 1st Infantry Division and the 36th Infantry Division in Basra.

Throughout the deployment, Benjamin played a vital role in telling the stories of his fellow soldiers protecting our country through print journalism.

"I got some great hands-on experience during the deployment," said Benjamin. "A major part of my job was interviewing and talking with other soldiers and local Iraqis. Then I would write stories about the mission in Iraq."

Benjamin went on to say how proud he is of the team and happy they all came home safely.

"Our unit went downrange and accomplished our mission," said Benjamin. "We left as a team and that's just how we came back."

Benjamin, along with his fellow soldiers, completed a two-week demobilization and reintegration process at Schofield Barracks after arriving in Hawaii. He finally made it home to Saipan this past week.

When he's not wearing an Army uniform, Benjamin serves his local community as a health and safety coordinator for the American Red Cross, Northern Marianas Islands Chapter.

Sgt. James Kennedy D.L.G. Benjamin, print journalist for the 305th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, sits with his family who traveled from Saipan to welcome him home at a deployment ceremony on June 28 in Fort Shafter Flats, Hawaii. Benjamin, along with the 305th MPAD, returned to Fort Shafter from Iraq where they provided critical public affairs support for the 1st Infantry Division and the 36th Infantry Division in Basra and the commanding general at Camp Victory in Baghdad.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

3 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

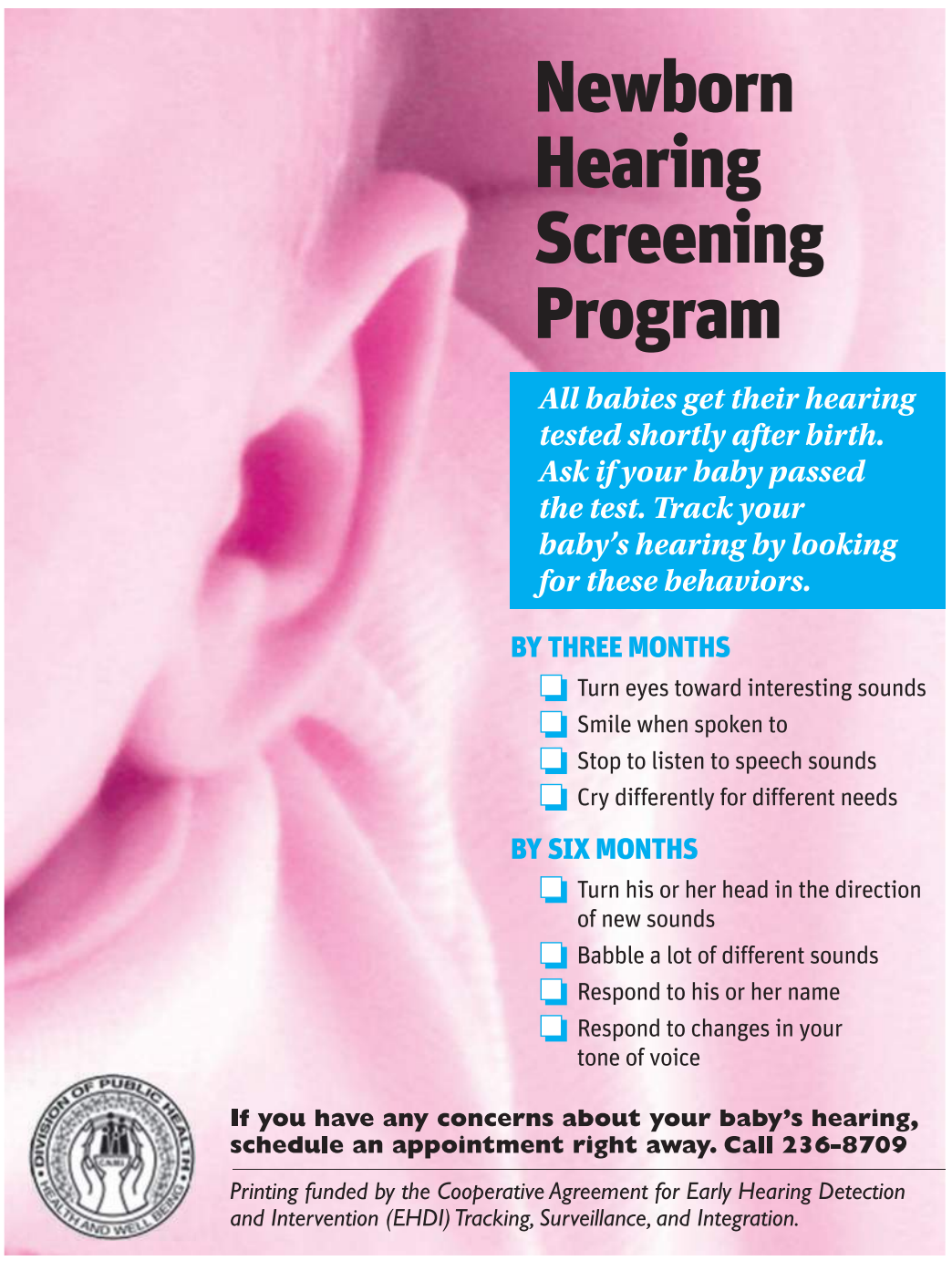
The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Hafadai Beach Hotel beach, Garapan Beach and Saipan World Resort Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

Water samples were taken from 12 locations on Saipan this week.

The DEQ did not analyze water samples from the following locations this week so residents are urged to take caution when visiting these areas: Wing Beach, Palms Resort, San Roque School Beach, Plumeria Hotel, Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, Sea Plane Ramp, DPW Channel Bridge, South Puerto Rico Dump, Outer Cove Marina, Smiling Cove Marina, north of American Memorial Park, Fiesta drainage, Samoa Housing, south of Hafaadai drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach drainage, Saipan Community School beach, Sugar Dock, CK Dist. No. 2 drainage, Hopwood School Beach, San Antonio Beach, and San Antonio Lift Station.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***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P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, **vs.**	**Civil Action No. 08-0358-CV**
ROSLYN C. PALACIOS, Defendant.	**NOTICE OF AUCTION/ JUDICIAL SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 3rd day of November, 2010, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **18th day of August, 2011 at 10 a.m.**, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot EA 141-3 (part of original EA 141), located in As Perdito, Saipan, containing an area 2,493 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2033/83, the original of which was recorded on January 13, 1983 as Document No. 16277 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.
3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 30th day of June, 2011.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Kilili calls for food stamp equity at Agriculture hearing

WASHINGTON, D.C.—CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan laid out yesterday his case for putting the Northern Mariana Islands into the national food stamp program at a hearing of the Subcommittee on Nutrition and Horticulture. He argued that people he represents in the Northern Mariana Islands are being denied access to food assistance because a "food stamps lite" program, negotiated by the U.S. Agriculture Department and the Commonwealth government is inadequate and inflexible. Even people who do receive help, he said, get much less than other Americans, yet face much higher food costs.

Sablan is a member of the Agriculture Committee's Nutrition Subcommittee, which has oversight over the Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program. SNAP provides food aid to some 44.6 million Americans, but the Northern Marianas does not participate in the program.

The sole witness for yesterday's hearing was Audrey Rowe, Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service at the Agriculture Department.

Sablan's full statement for the record follows:

"Thank you Chairwoman Schmidt, Ranking Member Baca, and members of the subcommittee.

"Literally thousands of my constituents are going hungry and they need our help. The Department of Agriculture runs a "food stamp" program in the Northern Mariana Islands. I call it "food stamps lite," because recipients only get half the help that Americans who qualify for the national Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) receive. The average single-person household benefit is just $111 per month in the Marianas, while right next door in Guam the same household gets $208 per month because Guam is in SNAP.

"Not only do my constituents get less help feeding their families, but the food they buy is more expensive. On the island of Rota, for instance, frozen whole chicken costs over $4.00 per pound. If you go down to the Safeway on Maine Avenue here in D.C., you can buy fresh whole chicken for $0.99 per pound. How do we expect people in Rota and other places in the Northern Marianas to get by when they face that kind of cost differential?

"It gets worse. In May benefits had to be cut by 24 percent in the Marianas, because more and more people are becoming eligible for help; and the fixed, block grant we get from USDA had to be divvied up into smaller and smaller benefits. In fact, poverty is growing so quickly that the local government finally had to stop adding people to the food stamp program, rather than continue to dilute the benefits for those already enrolled. 500 people are eligible, need help getting food for their families, and are "wait-listed."

Sablan

"Those 500 people will remain wait-listed and more people will be added to the wait-list, until either this Congress acts or the secretary of Agriculture uses his authority to get food to people who need it.

"What can we do in Congress?

"I have introduced H.R. 1465, the AYUDA Act, which would put the Northern Mariana Islands into the same national Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program that helps hungry American families throughout our country. AYUDA means "assuring you uniform dietary assistance;" and that is exactly what the bill would do: assure Americans in the Northern Marianas the same dietary assistance that Americans in California, or Georgia, or Guam get. All we are asking is fairness.

"H.R. 1465 has received great support from my colleagues, including Ranking Member Baca. Maybe we can roll it into the farm bill, when we get that important legislation out of the Agriculture Committee and on to the floor of the House.

"In the meantime, however, my people are hungry. It is probably no exaggeration to say that some people in the Marianas are starving, not getting the minimum level of nutrition necessary for healthy life. I don't want to wait for Congress to act.

"So, I have appealed to Agriculture Secretary Vilsack. The secretary has broad authority to extend to the Northern Mariana Islands any and all federal nutritional assistance programs, including SNAP. I am including with this statement the Congressional Research Service report confirming that the secretary has this complete authority provided under terms of Public Law 96-597.

"Up until now, the Agriculture Department has negotiated a block grant with the Northern Marianas governor each year to pay for a food stamp program in the islands. Maybe this system worked at the beginning to make sure people who needed food assistance got enough help. But lately these negotiations have resulted in what I called earlier "food stamps lite," an inadequate substitute for the aid other Americans get to ward off hunger.

"I have been working with Secretary Vilsack, since I came to Congress in 2009 to try to shore up the block grant program and make it serve my constituents more equitably. And Secretary Vilsack and his team have been receptive and helpful.

"In April of 2009, responding to my request, the secretary on his own authority increased the block grant by 13.6 percent to match the increase in SNAP aid that was included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. And Agriculture maintained that increase in subsequent fiscal year budgets. That helped.

"Agriculture has, also at my request, encouraged the local government to incorporate features of the SNAP program into the local program, such as the standard utility allowance, and is guiding the local government to upgrade its accounting and tracking systems with new computer hardware and software. That's a help.

"Most recently, I've appealed to the secretary to take cognizance of the 24 percent cut in benefits and the 500 people wait-listed and to reprogram funds for this fiscal year to do something to help hungry families. I have not gotten a flat "no" from the secretary on this request, so I remain hopeful that he will take immediate action in the face of the deteriorating economic situation in the Northern Marianas.

"But, ultimately, what I want the secretary to do—and formally requested him to do in June—is to use his statutory authority under Public Law 96-597 to incorporate the Northern Mariana Islands into the national Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program.

"I recognize that the governor of the Northern Marianas would have to agree to this change. Because it would require that the local government shoulder some of the administrative costs of the program; and right now the administrative costs come right off the top of the block grant without any local contribution.

"So, even if Secretary Vilsack agrees, people in the Northern Marianas might still continue to go hungry, unless the governor sits down with his advisors and realizes that a small local contribution in administrative costs would yield a large benefit to thousands of hungry people in the islands. I hope the governor understands the good sense behind this trade-off.

"I hope, too, that the secretary offers the governor the opportunity to make this decision. It would certainly be consistent with the Administration's stated policy. Undersecretary Kevin Concannon made clear the inherent problem with block grants, such as Agriculture and the Northern Marianas negotiate each year, in a recent interview with the Hagstrom Report. In his experience, Undersecretary Concannon said, block grants cannot respond to changes in need that occur with rising unemployment and economic downturn. This is precisely what is happening now in the Northern Marianas: economic downturn has led to rising unemployment and underemployment, making more people eligible for food aid, while the amount of funding available remains unchanged — hence, the 24 percent cut in benefits for some and the complete denial of benefits for those wait-listed.

"Undersecretary Concannon also expressed concern that federal regulations on civil rights dictate that the SNAP program be run in the same way nationwide. I certainly concur that what I am seeking with H.R. 1465, the AYUDA Act, and what I am asking Secretary Vilsack to do by including the Northern Marianas in the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program is a simple matter of equity. All Americans should have the same access to food aid when they are hungry.

"I urge this Committee and the Department of Agriculture to work with me to put the Northern Mariana Islands under the national SNAP. People are hungry. We cannot wait another day.

"Thank you again, Chairwoman Schmidt, for holding this very important hearing and for giving me an opportunity to make this statement on behalf of my constituents." ***(Office of the CNMI Delegate)***

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that **Maria Nina (Marnie) Dolot Castro** is no longer employed, affiliated, or associated in any manner with **BDC Consultancy (Saipan) LLC.** Any transaction, contracts, agreements for any services accepted or made by her on behalf of the company after May 23, 2011 are considered null and void.

NMC invites youth to explore careers in health

The CNMI Area Health Education Center, AHEC, a program under the Northern Marianas College Community Development Institute, is inviting individuals aged 15 to 21 to participate in the upcoming Health Careers Exploration and Leadership Training for the Youth.

The free training will allow participants to improve their knowledge on nutrition and health, and develop their leadership and team-building skills. The aim of this workshop is to educate the youth in the CNMI on how to live a healthier lifestyle and to empower them to teach their peers and others in the community on the importance of healthy living. In addition, participants will also learn about various careers in health care.

The two-day training will be held on Thursday, July 28, 2011, from 7:30am to 4:30pm, and on Friday, July 29, 2011, from 7:30am to 12:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The deadline to register for this training is Wednesday, July 27, 2011. Register by visiting the NMC Community Development Institute Office in Building P at the As Terlaje campus. Interested individuals under the age of 18 years must have permission from a parent or legal guardian in order to register.

For more information, contact AHEC program coordinator Orrin Pharmin at 234-5498 ext. 1019/1020 or email orrinp@nmcnet.edu.

This training was made possible through funds from a subgrant from the Hawaii/Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Community Development Institute is a program under the NMC Division of Community Programs and Services. ***(NMC)***

Joeten donates 2011 Ford Fiesta as a hole-in-one prize for TOC

TOC

Matt Deets, left, general manager of Joeten Motors, and Ben Babauta, TOC tournament director, pose with the 2011 Ford Fiesta that Joeten Motors and the Joeten Foundation is sponsoring as a hole-in-one prize for the 16th Annual Tournament of Champions.

Joeten Motors and the Joeten Charitable Foundation have again signed on to become a hole-in-one prize sponsor for the 16th Annual Tournament of Champions. This year's hole-in-one prize on Lao Lao West Course No. 13 will be a 2011 Ford Fiesta.

"This is the eighth year that Joeten Motors and the Joeten Charitable Foundation have been a TOC partner," said Matt Deets, general manager of Joeten Motors. "We realize the importance of what TOC does for our tourism and are pleased to continue our support."

Over the last 15 years, TOC has given over $500,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has most recently been used to improve the tree-lined traffic medians in Chalan Piao, Dandan, and Susupe. Funds were also used for the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, and the beautification of the Port to Park pathway. It was recently announced that proceeds from this year's TOC will assist in the repair of the Mt. Topochau stairways, railings, and the leveling of the area.

"TOC is grateful to Joeten Motors and the Joeten Charitable Foundation for their commitment to Saipan Beautification Fund," said Ben Babauta, TOC tournament director. "Their partnership is valued by the committee."

First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior and Super Senior Flights will each receive $600 cash, $500 for second, $400 for third, a digital camera to fourth, and $100 DFS gift certificate for fifth place. The Ladies Low Gross champion will receive $600, $500 is awarded for second, and $400 for third place. The Ladies Low Net first through third places all receive a trophy.

Platinum sponsor Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort will host to the 16th Annual Tournament of Champions on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 6 and 7. Show time is 6am and shotgun start is 7am. Registration fee is $175 for two days of golf and the banquet. For more information and to register, call 236-2511 or www.tocsaipan.com. ***(TOC)***

Bordallo to DOT: Reconsider Guam-Haneda route

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo expressed her concern today with recent requests by air carriers for the U.S. Department of Transportation to temporarily reduce or suspend service of U.S. air carriers to Haneda Airport in Japan.

In a letter to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, Bordallo emphasized that this request is inconsistent with the original terms of an Open Skies agreement established between the United States and the Government of Japan in 2009.

She requested that the DOT reconsider applications for U.S. carriers to fly between Guam and Haneda to enhance Guam's tourism industry and provide additional service between the Tokyo metropolitan area and Guam.

Continental Airlines applied for a Guam-Haneda route, but it was not accepted by the DOT last year. Currently, United Airlines operates sporadic charter flights between Guam and Haneda Airport.

The 2009 Open Skies agreement opened up several slots at the Haneda International Airport for use by U.S. airlines flying between the United States and Japan. The agreement set liberal ground rules for airline service between the two countries and created free market competition by lifting restrictions on international route rights. The Open Skies agreement also allows airlines to enter into code-sharing or leasing arrangements with other airlines of either country.

"It is important to continue to diversify Guam's tourism market by opening up new markets in Japan as well as in other countries," said Bordallo. "Japanese tourists account for the overwhelming majority of Guam's tourists visitor arrivals. Allowing certain airlines to continue to delay their U.S. to Haneda Airport service impedes the intent of opening up Haneda to U.S. carriers and does not help to prove the economic viability of Haneda. Opening up a U.S. slot at Haneda for a Guam flight would be very beneficial to our economy and will help the U.S. fulfill the terms of the Open Skies agreement. I strongly encourage Secretary LaHood to use a Haneda slot for service to Guam." ***(PR)***

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Burglary at furniture store

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a burglary and theft incident that occurred at the Smart Furniture Store in Koblerville, across the street from the ABCD store.

On Saturday morning, July 16, 2011, around 3am, the victim and owner of the store awoke to the sound of dogs barking. There was a loud sound coming from inside the store. The victim heard the sound of glass breaking. The owner discovered the front steel door padlock was broken off and the doorknob to the front door busted. The owner found a glass cabinet containing a tray of assorted silver jewelry missing.

The items stolen include assorted silver necklaces, bracelets, and rings. Total value was $200.

DPS and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the public. Contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 011 D 24, containing an area of approximately 707 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Rigel Corporation, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors for the Corporation is Ning Ning Li, Shaoli Che, and Shao Hong C. Walker.

The President of the Corporation is Ning Ning Li, Vice President is Shaoli Che, and Secretary/Treasurer is Shao Hong C. Walker.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Manuel J. Alvarez.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for expansion of their Iron Horse Auto Shop, parking space for customers' and employees' vehicular and other related operations.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Garapan, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 4, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i nutisia ni intension-ña para u atkila pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I lugåt atkilon siha madeskribi komu tano' pupbliku Lot No. 011 D 24, kinonsisti årian kåsi guaha 707 square meters, mås pat menus,ni gaigi giya Garapan, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugåt gaigi na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i Rigel Corporation, i CNMI Corporation. I Kuetpun Direktot siha para i Corporation si Ning Ning Li, Shaoli Che, yan si Shao Hong C. Walker.

I Presidenti gi Corporation si Ning Ning Li, i sigundu Presidenti si Shaoli Che, yan i Sekritåriu / Tresureriu si Shao Hong C. Walker.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Manual J. Alvarez.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugåt siha uniku para i hinangai para i mana'dångkulun i iyo-ñiha Iron Horse Shop, kåmpun parking para i kåstuma siha yan i tumobit emple'åo yan ottru ni mana'achuli' siha na operasion.

I teman i kuntråtan atkilon ha ekstendi gi 25 åñus, yan option para u ma'ekstendi i atkilon gi ta'lu 15 åñus.

I manmaproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durântin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt siha såsåonåo i existing structure(s).

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontråta ekstension atkilon siha siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi segundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' pupbliku siha giya Garapan, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di August 4, 2011 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONGOL POMWOL AKKILON-UL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól Public Law 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke issiswoow ammataf igha e tipáli ebwe tingóór ebwe akkila eghus mereel falúweer toulap mewóól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas. Ngáliir toulap schóókka re mwuschel nge rebwe issisilong yaar mwáliili, mángemáng me ngáre angiingi reel ifa meleil pomw kkaal reel akkilon-ul falúweer toulap. Me Public Law 15-2, e ayoor lamal aweewe kka e fisch ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Pomwol akkilon-ul falúweer toulap ekke bwáári bwe Lot No. 011 D 24, emmwel ebwe yoor fisabwughúw fissuw (707) square meters, elapló ngáre eghus, elo Arabwal (Garapan), Seipél. Tiliighil ngáre kopiyal bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Land) bwe aubwe ghi ghuleey fischiy.

ii. Schééschél lessee nge Rigel Corporation, eew CNMI Corporation. Samwoolur (Board of Directors) Corporation yeel nge Ning Ning Li, Shaoli CHE, ME Shao Hong C. Walker. President-il Corporation yeel nge Ning Ning Li, Vice President nge Shaoli Che, me Secretary/Treasurer nge Shao Hong C. Walker.

iii. Schóól aweewel akkilon yeel nge Mr. Manuel J. Alvarez.

iv. Schóól lessee ebwe yááyá bwuley yeel reel ebwe atomwoghaló yaar Iron Horse Auto Shop, me parking space-il gharetta waar customers me schóól angaang me bwal akkááw mwóghut.

Tool aighúúghúl pomwol akkilon yeel nge reweigh me limwoow (25) ráágh, me ngáre e tipáli nge ebwe bwal sóbweló akkilon yeel bwal seigh me limwoow (15) ráágh.

Pomwol tool annual rental yeel nge ebwe bweibwogh mereel percentage-il reel méél falúw (appraised fair market value), me bwal akkayúú kka elo llól.

v. Tiliighil ngáre kopiyal pomwol abwungubwungul akkilon yeel nge emmwel ebwe bweibwogh mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands), elo 2nd floor mereel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; Songsong Commercial Building, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor mereel Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands) esáál bweibwogh mwo meleil pomwol akkilon kka falúweer toulap mellól Arabwal (Garapan), Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Ammwelil Falúweeer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mwáliili, mángemáng, angiingi me ngáre ifa meleil pomwo kkaal sángi schóókka re tipáli rebwe issisolong wóól me ngáre mmwal August 4, 2011 mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands offices) elo Seipél, Luuta, me ngáre Tchúliyúl.

Island Snapshots

WWII FEATURE

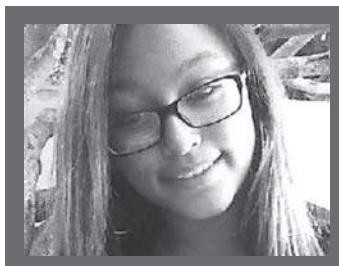
Cameraman Dai Sasakura of Japan broadcast company NHK films at North Field, Tinian on July 10, 2011, as part of an upcoming World War II feature scheduled to be aired in August 2011. The film crew was assisted by the Marianas Visitors Authority and others during their visit. The NHK special will feature a behind-the-scenes look at the information war that went on between the U.S. Army Airforces' 509th Composite Group stationed on Tinian at the time, and the Japanese Army and Navy.

MVA

CHECK DONATION

CNMI Bar Association president Sean E. Frink presents Linda Wingenbach of the Micronesian Legal Services Corp with a check in the amount of $7,475 on Thursday, July 21, 2011. This donation by the Bar Association has been an annual event since 2008 when it was instituted under the revised bylaws by then president Maya B. Kara. These funds are used to assist indigent members of the CNMI community obtain much needed legal services through the MLSC. The donation is given in addition to the many hours most members of the Bar Association already donate in assisting indigent members of our community through criminal appointments by the court, and by providing legal services *pro bono* (for free) or at greatly discounted rates.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 15th birthday to Angeliya Jenay Jones Lizama. Wishing you the best and brightest blessings. We love you very much! Love always, Dad, Mom, Barn Jr., E'Ann, Nina, your grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 38th birthday greetings go out to JJ Salas! We love you! Greetings come from Sam, Julia, Janece, and John.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WELCOME HOME

Welcome home and congratulations on your promotion Sergeant First Class Maylynn Henrick Babauta! Greetings come from your familia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SUMMER CLASSES

Hopwood language arts teacher Jenn Castro is seen in a discussion with her class during yesterday's summer session on campus. This year's summer enrichment programs of the Public School System registered over a thousand participants across all schools and levels

MONETH G. DEPOSA

PUNCH WITH THE PRESIDENT

New Northern Marianas College president Sharon Hart addresses students during the "Punch with the President" held recently at the NMC Student Center. The event served as an informal gathering where Dr. Hart met with the student body to get a better understanding of what is on their minds, what they hope to see from her leadership, and how the president will deal with the topics that are important to them.

NMC

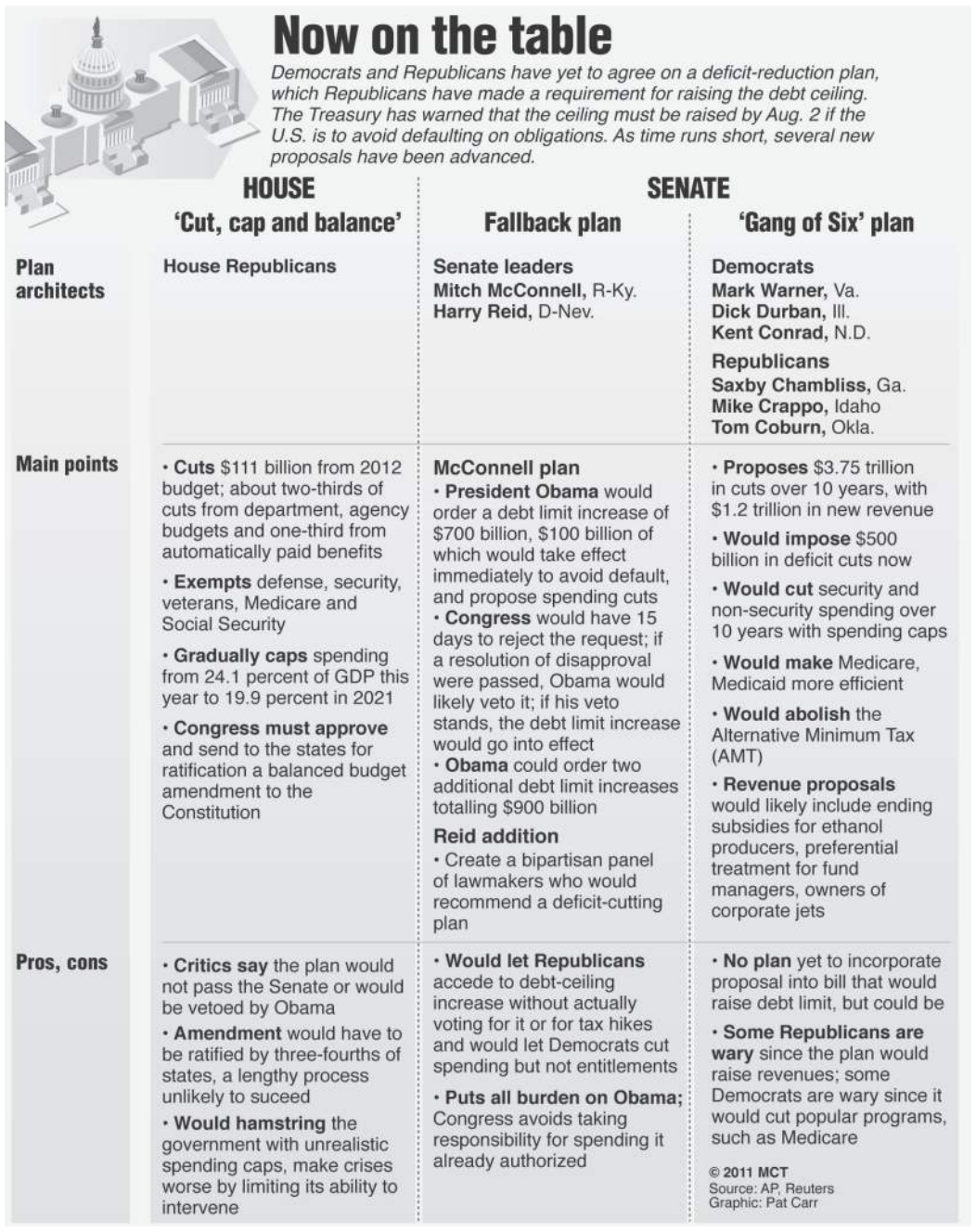
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Security offier Ancheta Arturo, second from left, is G4S Security Services (CNMI) Inc.'s Employee of the Month for June 2011. Arturo, who is assigned at Palms Resort Saipan, is shown here after being presented with his certificate of appreciation by G4S CNMI branch manager Moises K. Pangelinan, operation manager Kathy Casil, and Safety Security manager Mafi Islam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

If debt deal near, Obama would OK stopgap measure


Now on the table
Democrats and Republicans have yet to agree on a deficit-reduction plan, which Republicans have made a requirement for raising the debt ceiling. The Treasury has warned that the ceiling must be raised by Aug. 2 if the U.S. is to avoid defaulting on obligations. As time runs short, several new proposals have been advanced.
HOUSE
SENATE
'Cut, cap and balance'
Fallback plan
'Gang of Six' plan
Plan architects
House Republicans
Senate leaders
Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.
Harry Reid, D-Nev.
Democrats
Mark Warner, Va.
Dick Durban, Ill.
Kent Conrad, N.D.
Republicans
Saxby Chambliss, Ga.
Mike Crappo, Idaho
Tom Coburn, Okla.
Main points
• Cuts $111 billion from 2012 budget; about two-thirds of cuts from department, agency budgets and one-third from automatically paid benefits
• Exempts defense, security, veterans, Medicare and Social Security
• Gradually caps spending from 24.1 percent of GDP this year to 19.9 percent in 2021
• Congress must approve and send to the states for ratification a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution
McConnell plan
• President Obama would order a debt limit increase of $700 billion, $100 billion of which would take effect immediately to avoid default, and propose spending cuts
• Congress would have 15 days to reject the request; if a resolution of disapproval were passed, Obama would likely veto it; if his veto stands, the debt limit increase would go into effect
• Obama could order two additional debt limit increases totalling $900 billion
Reid addition
• Create a bipartisan panel of lawmakers who would recommend a deficit-cutting plan
• Proposes $3.75 trillion in cuts over 10 years, with $1.2 trillion in new revenue
• Would impose $500 billion in deficit cuts now
• Would cut security and non-security spending over 10 years with spending caps
• Would make Medicare, Medicaid more efficient
• Would abolish the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT)
• Revenue proposals would likely include ending subsidies for ethanol producers, preferential treatment for fund managers, owners of corporate jets
Pros, cons
• Critics say the plan would not pass the Senate or would be vetoed by Obama
• Amendment would have to be ratified by three-fourths of states, a lengthy process unlikely to suceed
• Would hamstring the government with unrealistic spending caps, make crises worse by limiting its ability to intervene
• Would let Republicans accede to debt-ceiling increase without actually voting for it or for tax hikes and would let Democrats cut spending but not entitlements
• Puts all burden on Obama; Congress avoids taking responsibility for spending it already authorized
• No plan yet to incorporate proposal into bill that would raise debt limit, but could be
• Some Republicans are wary since the plan would raise revenues; some Democrats are wary since it would cut popular programs, such as Medicare
© 2011 MCT
Source: AP, Reuters
Graphic: Pat Carr

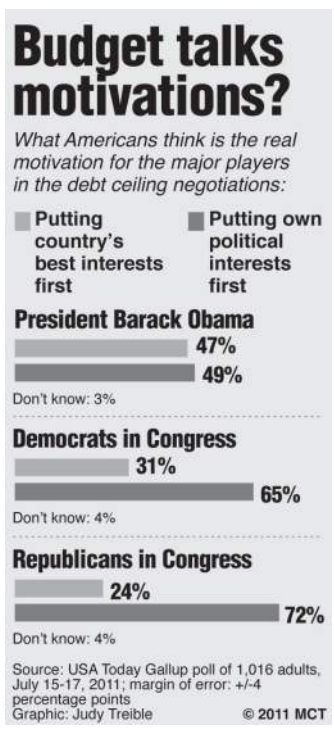
WASHINGTON (AP)—Running out of time, President Barack Obama softened his stand and signaled Wednesday he would back a short-term deal to prevent a disastrous financial default on Aug. 2, but only if a larger and still elusive deficit-cutting agreement was essentially in place. He called lawmakers to the White House in a scramble to find enough votes from both Republicans and his own party.

The president, pushing for a big compromise that would cut the nation's budget deficit and extend the government's tapped-out borrowing power, had threatened to veto any stopgap expansion of the nation's debt limit. He even challenged House Majority Leader Eric Cantor not to call his bluff about it in one confrontational moment last week.

Obama's now-calibrated position, offered by spokesman Jay Carney, reflected the reality: that leaders are nearly out of time to head off unprecedented trouble. Carney said if a divided Congress and the White House can agree on a significant deal, Obama would accept a "very short-term extension" of the debt limit to let bigger legislation work its way through Congress.

Even a few days matters, given the stakes. The government will exhaust its ability to borrow money and pay its bills come Aug. 2, an outcome that could sink the country back into recession, halt Social Security checks and other payments, send interest rates higher and erode the creditworthiness of the richest nation on earth.

At the White House, Obama met privately with the Democratic leaders of the House and Senate, and then separately with House Speaker John Boehner and Cantor. All signs pointed to a legislative battle that would play out until the last minute.


Budget talks motivations?
What Americans think is the real motivation for the major players in the debt ceiling negotiations:
Putting country's best interests first
Putting own political interests first
President Barack Obama
47%
49%
Don't know: 3%
Democrats in Congress
31%
65%
Don't know: 4%
Republicans in Congress
24%
72%
Don't know: 4%
Source: USA Today Gallup poll of 1,016 adults, July 15-17, 2011; margin of error: +/-4 percentage points
Graphic: Judy Treible
© 2011 MCT

The latest talks centered on a single but complex question: What will it take to muster enough votes from both parties to muscle legislation through the House and Senate and raise the national debt limit by the deadline. Congressional leaders say they want to prevent default, but they are far from agreed on how.

The divided-by-party nature of Obama's negotiations underscored his need to get a bottom line from Democrats in both chambers and the leaders of the Republican-run House.

His challenge with fellow Democrats is to persuade them to accept changes to the popular entitlement programs of Medicare and Social Security. With Republicans, Obama is slamming into opposition from conservatives who refuse to consider tax increases. Obama wants a mixed approach of higher taxes on the wealthy and spending cuts that share the pain.

"There is still time to do something significant," Carney said, urging compromise.

Realistically, though, the deadline for agreement is this week, not next week, given the time needed to craft, debate, pass and work out possible differences in legislation.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada said Tuesday that the head of the Congressional Budget Office has told him it could take the scorekeeping agency two weeks to come up with an official cost estimate for even a relatively modest package of spending cuts.

Then there are the problems of moving the debt limit increase through the Senate, where the rules allow any single member to force delays.

Parliamentary experts say that if the Senate takes up the debt limit measure this Saturday, it could take more than a week, until Monday, Aug. 1, to pass the measure through the Senate, give the House time to consider it and make changes and then gain Senate approval one more time.

The Obama administration and Congress are also working on a backup plan to increase the debt limit if no big plan can be reached. It would allow Obama to raise the ceiling on his own unless overridden by Congress. Yet many House Republicans loathe that idea and have pledged to vote against it, raising doubts about how tenable even the fallback choice is.

That plan is the result of work by the Democratic and Republican leaders of the Senate, Reid of Nevada and Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

Obama is trying to seize on momentum from a proposal from a bipartisan "Gang of Six" senators that would cut the deficit by almost $4 trillion but lacks many specifics.

Obama met for less than an hour with Reid; Dick Durbin of Illinois, the No. 2 Democrat in the Senate and a member of the Gang of Six; House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California and Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, the No. 2 Democrat in the House.

A House Democratic aide familiar with the meeting said House Democrats stand with Obama on his push for a big bargain but without hurting seniors through cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
Drainage System Improvement/Upgrade
AIP No. 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-003-09)

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **DRAINAGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT/ UPGRADE, FRANCISCO C. ADA SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT,COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-62/65/67, CPA-SA-003-09.**

Sealed Proposals will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, AUGUST 26, 2011**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of the Drainage System Improvement/Upgrade to include the replacement of the damaged roof waterproofing with existing insulation board and diversion of the roof drain all in accordance with the plans and specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be in 240 calendar days. The contractor shall be assessed with the liquidated damages in the amount of $500/day if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-24 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

Bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CONFERENCE ROOM, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, AUGUST 12, 2011**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow right after the pre-bid conference. Attendance is mandatory to all prospective bidders. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference. Contractors are required to attend the pre-bid meeting.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are encouraged to use the CD bid schedule form. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **ten percent (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: July 8, 2011

Nation

Heat 'dome' makes much of US feel like steam bath

CHICAGO (AP)—If the extreme heat and humidity lingering over much of the nation feels like a steam bath, it's because the same principles are at work in the atmosphere.

Vast amounts of warmth and moisture have become trapped under a huge "heat dome," bringing record-breaking temperatures and thick, topical air to scores of cities from the Plains to the Ohio Valley. Now the system is moving east to spread the misery to some of the country's most densely populated areas through the weekend.

With temperatures hovering around 100, Jeff Grembocki and other construction workers prepared Wednesday to pour concrete for a walkway improvement project near downtown Kansas City. Empty Gatorade bottles lay strewn across their job site.

Grembocki said the heat saps his energy so much that he falls asleep soon after getting home. He only rouses for a couple of hours to watch TV before going back to bed.

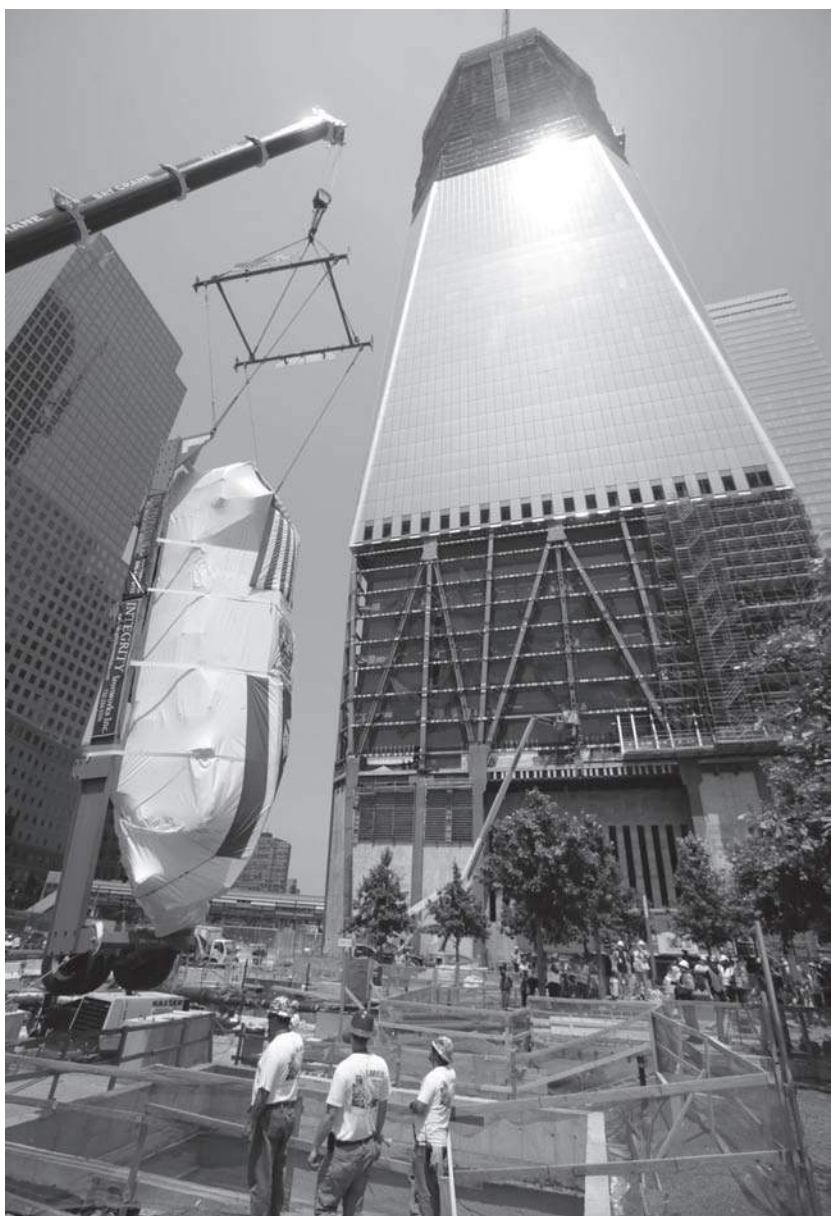
"The air conditioning, when it hits you, it's all you can do to stay awake," he said.

The heat dome forms when a high pressure system develops in the upper atmosphere, causing the air below it to sink and compress because there's more weight on top. That raises temperatures in the lower atmosphere, said Eli Jacks, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Silver Spring, Md.

The dome of high pressure also pushes the jet stream and its drier, cooler air, farther north—it's now well into Canada—while hot, humid air from the Gulf of Mexico circulates clockwise around the dome, traveling farther inland than normal.

Combined with generally clear skies and the sun's higher summertime angle, "it gets really hot," Jacks said.

The cruel result: eye-popping heat index readings measuring temperature combined with humidity. In Newton, Iowa, it was 98 degrees Wednesday with a heat index that made it feel like 115. A day earlier, Newton's heat index hit 129 degrees.



IN MEMORIAM AP

The Fire Department of New York's Ladder Company 3 fire truck is lowered by crane into the National September 11 Memorial Museum, in front of One World Trade, in New York, Wednesday, July 20, 2011. The fire truck, which rushed to the aid of victims on Sept. 11, 2001, returned to the World Trade Center site Wednesday as it was lowered like a huge flag-draped coffin into exhibition space for the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. The truck helped civilians escape from the trade center's north tower. The vehicle had sped to the twin towers from its firehouse in Manhattan's East Village neighborhood with 11 firefighters aboard–all of whom died when the towers collapsed and their rig was mangled by debris. Battalion Chief John Moran, who was assigned to the company's firehouse, also was killed.

Police: Mom screamed 'Why?' during hammer attack

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—A Florida teenager told a friend that he stood behind his mother for about five minutes in contemplation before finally plunging a hammer into her head, according to police documents released Wednesday.

Police said Tyler Hadley, 17, described the attacks to an unidentified friend at the party he threw in his Port St. Lucie home last Saturday night after the killings.

Hadley

By the friend's account, when Hadley struck his mother with the hammer, she screamed one final question to her son: "Why?"

When his father walked into the room, Hadley told the friend that they locked eyes before he started beating his father with the hammer, too.

The boy took his parents' cell phones away ahead of the attack so they couldn't call for help, according to his friend's account. When it was over, and the parents were dead, Hadley spent three hours cleaning up the blood, before hosting dozens of friends. Hadley told the friend he was surprised how long the cleanup took.

Hadley is charged with murder in the deaths of Blake and Mary-Jo Hadley and is being held without bond. His public defender, Mark Harllee, entered a written not guilty plea on his client's behalf Wednesday, but said he couldn't comment further.

"We're still looking at all the facts and all the paperwork," he said.

The lead prosecutor on the case, Tom Bakkedahl, said of the affidavit: "It's clear to us that there's sufficient facts to charge with premeditated murder."

The latest details of the killings are contained within a juvenile arrest affidavit released Wednesday by the Port St. Lucie Police. It was first obtained by Treasure Coast Newspapers.

The friend of Hadley's, identified only as "MM," told police he received a call from the suspect Saturday afternoon claiming he planned to kill his parents, a threat he didn't take seriously because it had been made in the past.

Later that day, the friend told police, Hadley made the same threat again.

At the party that night, Hadley asked the friend to step outside to talk, confessing to the killings, according to the report. When the friend didn't believe him, Hadley pointed to his parents' cars parked in the driveway. He still wasn't convinced.

Hadley then showed his friend a bloody footprint in the garage and, ultimately, the bodies in the bedroom, police said.

Police responded to Hadley's home early Sunday morning after receiving the tip from his friend. When they arrived, they found a "nervous, frantic and very talkative" Hadley, dressed all in black, with enlarged pupils and "a blank stare."

Hadley told his friend he planned to commit suicide by taking painkillers before police arrived, according to the report.

Future of spaceflight? NASA is outsourcing the job

HOUSTON (AP)—How America gets people and stuff into orbit is about to be outsourced in an out-of-this-world way.

With the space shuttle's retirement Thursday, no longer will flying people and cargo up to the International Space Station be a government program where costs balloon. NASA is turning to private industry with fixed prices, contracts and profit margins. The space agency will be the customer, not the boss.

At least when it comes to the routine part of going to and from the space station, NASA hopes to rely on companies that will be the space version of FedEx and Yellow Cab.

The company that has been leading the commercial space race is hoping to launch its privately built rocket and capsule to the space station late this year. It won't carry astronauts, but if all goes well the unmanned ship will dock with the station and deliver food, water and clothing. And its major private cargo competitor may only be a month or two on its heels.

Getting people to orbit on a new American ship is a different story. Some ambitious companies hope to launch astronauts that way in three years, maybe four. Until then, the Russians will fly astronauts on a pay-for-play basis. Some space veterans like John Glenn, the first American in orbit, think five to 10 years is more realistic.

But two of the major players have surprised people before—the tech tycoons who founded PayPal and Amazon.

NASA has hired two companies—Space Exploration Technologies Corp. of Hawthorne, Calif., and Orbital Sciences of Dulles, Va.—to deliver 40 tons of supplies to the space station in 20 flights. The cost is $3.5 billion, about the same price per pound as it was during the space shuttle's 30-year history.

ACROSS THE NATION

Texas man executed for killing store clerk

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP)—A Texas inmate was executed Wednesday for killing a Dallas-area convenience store clerk during a shooting spree that he claimed was retaliation for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Mark Stroman, 41, said hate in the world needed to end and asked for God's grace shortly before the fatal drugs began flowing into his arms at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Huntsville Unit. He was pronounced dead at 8:53 p.m., less than an hour after his final court appeal was rejected. Stroman claimed the shooting spree that killed two men and injured a third in late 2001 targeted people from the Middle East, though all three victims were from South Asia. It was the death of 49-year-old Vasudev Patel, from India, that put Stroman on death row.

Suspect in Oregon family slaying still unconscious

MEDFORD, Ore. (AP)—An Oregon man suspected of stabbing his wife and four children and setting fire to their house has been unconscious since being taken to the hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation. Intensive care unit nurse practitioner Tamara Dixon said Wednesday that 51-year-old Jordan Adam Criado was in guarded but stable condition and on a mechanical respirator to be sure he has no breathing problems, and he remained in what is called an unresponsive state. She said Criado is suffering from carbon monoxide and cyanide poisoning due to smoke inhalation and has a superficial cut on his left wrist that did not require any stitches.

Deliberations begin in trial of 11 Ohio deaths

CLEVELAND (AP)—Jurors began deliberating the fate of a Cleveland man accused of killing 11 women Wednesday after prosecutors gave them a final glimpse of the drug-addicted victims who they said vanished into a house that smelled like death. "Let me give you 11 reasons why he should be found guilty," said Assistant Prosecutor Pinkey Carr, who paused as she held up a photograph of each victim for the jurors to see. Flanked by his attorneys, Anthony Sowell blinked rapidly but appeared composed throughout closing remarks. Sowell, 51, has pleaded not guilty to a massive 83-count indictment, which includes charges of aggravated murder, kidnapping and abuse of a corpse. In addition to the 11 deaths, he is charged with attacking and raping several other women who testified during the trial.

Alert level raised for Alaska volcano

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—The alert level for an Alaska volcano is being raised after officials say persistent thermal anomalies have been spotted in satellite data. The Alaska Volcano Observatory on Wednesday raised the level Cleveland Volcano to advisory from unassigned. There is no real-time seismic network at the volcano, located 939 miles southwest of Anchorage on an uninhabited island. Officials are not able to track local earthquake activity related to volcanic unrest. Short-lived explosions with ash clouds or plumes exceeding 20,000 feet above sea level are frequent on Cleveland. It last showed signs of unrest last summer, with a small ash emission and lava flows on its upper flanks. The observatory says the last significant eruption of the 5,676-foot volcano began in February 2001 and eventually produced a lava flow that reached the ocean.

Asia

At least 14 killed in Central Asia 6.1 magnitude temblor

ALMATY, Kazakhstan (AP)—A powerful earthquake killed at least 14 people in a heavily populated valley in Central Asia early Wednesday, emergency officials said.

Almost all the casualties were in Uzbekistan, where officials confirmed 13 deaths.

The magnitude-6.1 temblor centered in Kyrgyzstan hit shortly after midnight in a mountainous area some 20 miles (35 kilometers) away from the eastern Uzbek city of Ferghana, which has a population of more than 200,000. So far, no deaths have been reported in Kyrgyzstan itself.

Uzbekistan's Emergency Services Ministry said in a statement that of the 86 people being treated for injuries, 35 have been hospitalized.

Officials said a number of residential buildings in several towns in Ferghana Province have been damaged, but they did not specify the extent of the earthquake's impact.

Uzbek President Islam Karimov ordered emergency workers to provide assistance to victims, a government statement said.

"Local authorities are carrying out the work needed to assist the population affected by the earthquake and have taken on the burden of the costs of organizing and carrying out the burial of victims," the Emergency Services Ministry said.

A statement on the Foreign Ministry website said the country's leadership had expressed its condolences to the families of those killed in the earthquake.

In Tajikistan, the third country that shares the Ferghana Valley, Emergency Situations Committee head Ismoil Ismailov said that one man fell to his death from the second floor of a house under construction in which he was spending the night.

Ismailov said four other people suffered injuries, including broken arms and legs.

Quakes are a relatively frequent occurrence in this region of former Soviet Central Asia. A 6.6-magnitude quake near Kyrgyzstan's borders with Tajikistan and China flattened the remote mountain village of Nura in July 2008, killing at least 74 people.

Bangladesh indicts 430 for murder in mutiny

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A court in Bangladesh's capital on Wednesday indicted 430 people for serious crimes such as murder and arson related to the 2009 mutiny among border guards.

The revolt over pay and other issues broke out at border guard headquarters and spread around the country. Most of the 74 people killed were commanding officers from the military.

Metropolitan Sessions Judge Zahurul Haque read out charges of serious crimes against 430 suspects Wednesday. More than 800 people in all were named as suspects, and the court meets July 27 to decide about the others before starting the main phase of the trial.

The suspects appeared before the court in shackles on Wednesday. The judge asked the indicted suspects if they would admit their involvement but they pleaded not guilty.

Two politicians were among those indicted, one from the Bangladesh Nationalist Party led by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and another from incumbent Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League. Police alleged the two politicians aided the border guards in the killings and other crimes.

Separate courts have been handling mutiny cases and have sentenced hundreds of mutineers to prison terms of up to seven years.

The mutiny was a challenge for the government of Prime Minister Sheikh as it took place just two months after the influential military had handed power over to an elected government.

The military has been angry with Hasina's handling of the mutiny, which ended in negotiations and offers of amnesty for mutiny leaders.

But the government rescinded the amnesty offers when dozens of bodies were found dumped in shallow graves and sewers.

Hasina has promised justice for the victims' families.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Nepal will measure exact height of Mount Everest

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Nepal has ordered a new measurement of Mount Everest to determine exactly how high the world's highest mountain is. The Himalayan country has continued to recognize the decades-old measurement of 29,028 feet (8,448 meters) though Western climbers and China have made new claims. The plans are being formed this week and the work will take two years. It will entail placing a device on the peak that will measure the height using satellite technology. Stations will be set up in three locations using the global positioning system. An American expedition in 1999 said it used GPS satellites to determine the peak to be 29,035 feet (8,850 meters), a height which is widely used now.

Taliban: Hackers falsely report death of Omar

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The battle against the Taliban turned high-tech in Afghanistan on Wednesday with insurgents claiming their cell phones and website were hacked to spread false reports about the death of their leader Mullah Mohammad Omar. Taliban spokesmen quickly denied that their one-eyed, reclusive leader had died. Later, the Taliban's cultural affairs commission issued a lengthy retort, alleging that "the enemy, led by American spies," was behind the false reports. The response said the Taliban leader was very much alive and "on duty."

2nd Muslim charged in whipping attack in Australia

SYDNEY (AP)—A second Muslim man has been charged in connection with an attack on a recent convert to Islam who was allegedly whipped 40 times as a religious punishment for drinking alcohol. Wassim Fayad, 43, was freed on bail after being charged Wednesday with aggravated breaking and entering with intent to commit an indictable offense. The same charges were laid against Tolga Cifci, 20, on Tuesday. Neither man has entered a plea. Fayad and Cifci are among four people who are accused of breaking into Christian Martinez's house on Sunday, holding him down on his bed and whipping him 40 times with an electric cord. The court was told that Martinez, a recent convert to Islam, was targeted for "religious reasons."

Leopard injures 11 people in India before dying

KOLKATA, India (AP)—A leopard that mauled 11 people in a fierce showdown with Indian villagers has died of knife wounds after being captured. The snarling adult, male leopard leapt at locals and forest officials as they tried to drive it into a wildlife sanctuary in West Bengal state. Forest official Dharma Dev Rai says villagers used knives, stones and batons to beat back the cat. It injured six villagers, a policeman and four forest guards before being hit with a tranquilizer gun Tuesday. The cat died within hours, and a post mortem is being conducted. It happened near Siliguri, about 373 miles (600 kilometers) from Kolkata.

World

Serbia arrests war crimes fugitive

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—He was on the run for seven years, the last Serbian fugitive sought by the U.N.'s Balkan war crimes tribunal.

Goran Hadzic, the former leader of Croatia's ethnic Serbs, was arrested Wednesday by black-masked Serbian secret police in a hilly forest as an accomplice delivered cash to him—the end of a money trail that began with a photo of a Modigliani painting.

The arrest was hailed as the symbolic closure of a horrific chapter in Balkan history and an important step toward the former pariah state of Serbia joining the European Union.

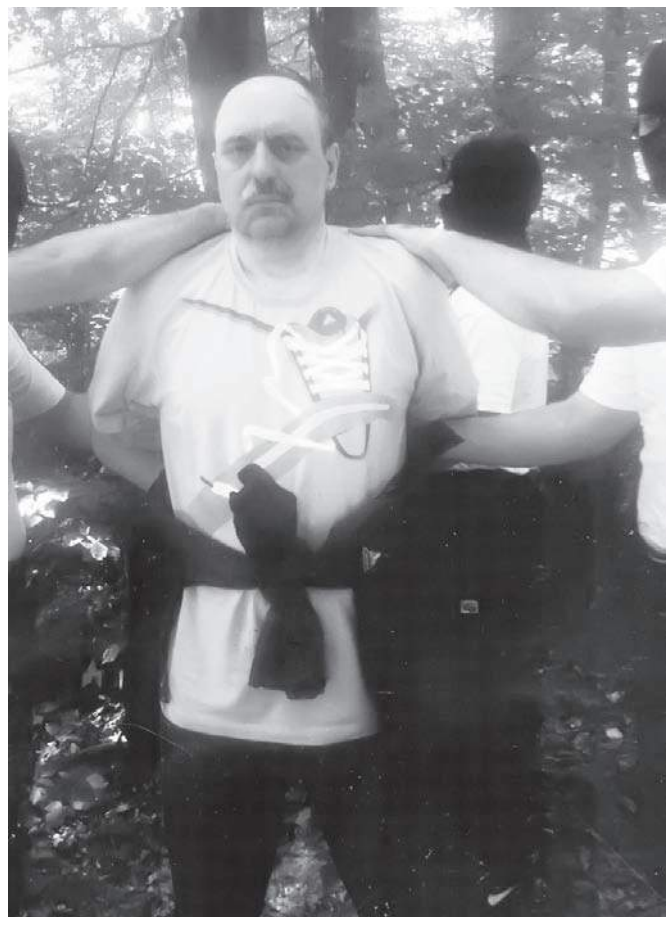
It came less than two months after the capture of Bosnian Serb Gen. Ratko Mladic, who was accused of some of the worst atrocities of the war in the former Yugoslavia.

Western-leaning Serbian President Boris Tadic told his nation in announcing the arrest of Hadzic, 53, that "we have turned a difficult and grim page of our history."

"It was our moral duty," Tadic said on national television. "We have done this for the sake of citizens of Serbia, we have done this for the sake of the victims among other nations, we have done this for the sake of reconciliation."

Hadzic was a warehouse worker in 1991 when Yugoslavia broke up and Croatia's minority Serbs rose in opposition to the country's independence.

He swiftly gained prominence through his links to Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic's secret police, taking charge of an ethnic Serbian ministate created by the brutal expulsion of non-Serbs from one third of Croatia's territory.



AP

In this photo provided by the Politika newspaper shows war crimes fugitive Goran Hadzic on Mt. Fruska Gora, Serbia Wednesday July 20, 2011.

Black-bearded with a dark, piercing stare, he worked closely with criminal gangs that made huge profits from smuggled cars, gasoline and cigarettes.

He also cooperated with paramilitary forces that became notorious for their brutality, including the "Tigers" led by Zeljko Raznatovic, known as Arkan.

According to the war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, Hadzic was among those responsible for the 1991 leveling of Vukovar, said to be the first European city entirely destroyed since World War II.

In one of the worst massacres of the Croatian war, Serb forces seized at least 264 non-Serbs from Vukovar Hospital after a three-month siege of the city, took them to a nearby pig farm, then tortured, shot and buried them in an unmarked mass grave.

A month before, about 12 miles (20 kilometers) southwest of Vukovar, about 50 Croats who had been detained for forced labor were made to walk through a minefield to render it safe for the Serbs, according to the indictment.

About 10,000 people died in the war, which ended after Croatia retook the territories in 1995.

WORLD BRIEFS

France: Gadhafi could possibly stay in Libya

PARIS (AP)—France's foreign minister suggested Wednesday that a possible way out of Libya's civil war would be to allow Moammar Gadhafi to stay in the country if he relinquishes power. Gadhafi insists he will neither step down nor flee the country he has led for four decades. With the NATO-led air campaign against Gadhafi's forces entering its fifth month and the fighting in a stalemate, the international community is seeking exit strategies. French President Nicolas Sarkozy met in Paris on Wednesday with three rebel leaders from the western port city of Misrata who are seeking aid and arms to move toward Tripoli. Sarkozy announced no specific measures in response.

Jamaica mother, daughter found beheaded at home

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—A mother and daughter were beheaded Wednesday by attackers who invaded their home in a gritty area outside Jamaica's capital, near where a wanted 18-year-old gang member was found with his head chopped off earlier this week. Police said the grisly slayings occurred on the outskirts of Spanish Town, a southern city where violent gangs are deeply entrenched and gunmen have been battling not only authorities but each other over extortion and drug rackets. The decapitated bodies of Charmaine Rattray and her 19-year-old daughter, Joyette Lynch, were found on a bed inside their home, investigators said. Their heads were not found.

Al-Qaida plans cartoon recruiting film for kids

LONDON (AP)—An al-Qaida affiliate says it plans to roll out what some have called a Disney-like animated cartoon aimed at recruiting children to the terror network. Scenes from the proposed short film show young boys dressed in battle fatigues and participating in raids, killings and terror plots. It is the latest attempt by the terror organization to use multimedia to draw in potential recruits. Recently, a Yemen-based extremist group released an online women's magazine with makeup and chastity tips. News of the animated film was announced by a group called Abu al-Laith al-Yemen on the Arabic-language al-Shamouk jihadist website, the London-based Quilliam Foundation reported Wednesday.

Science & Technology

TSA introduces new technology to protect privacy

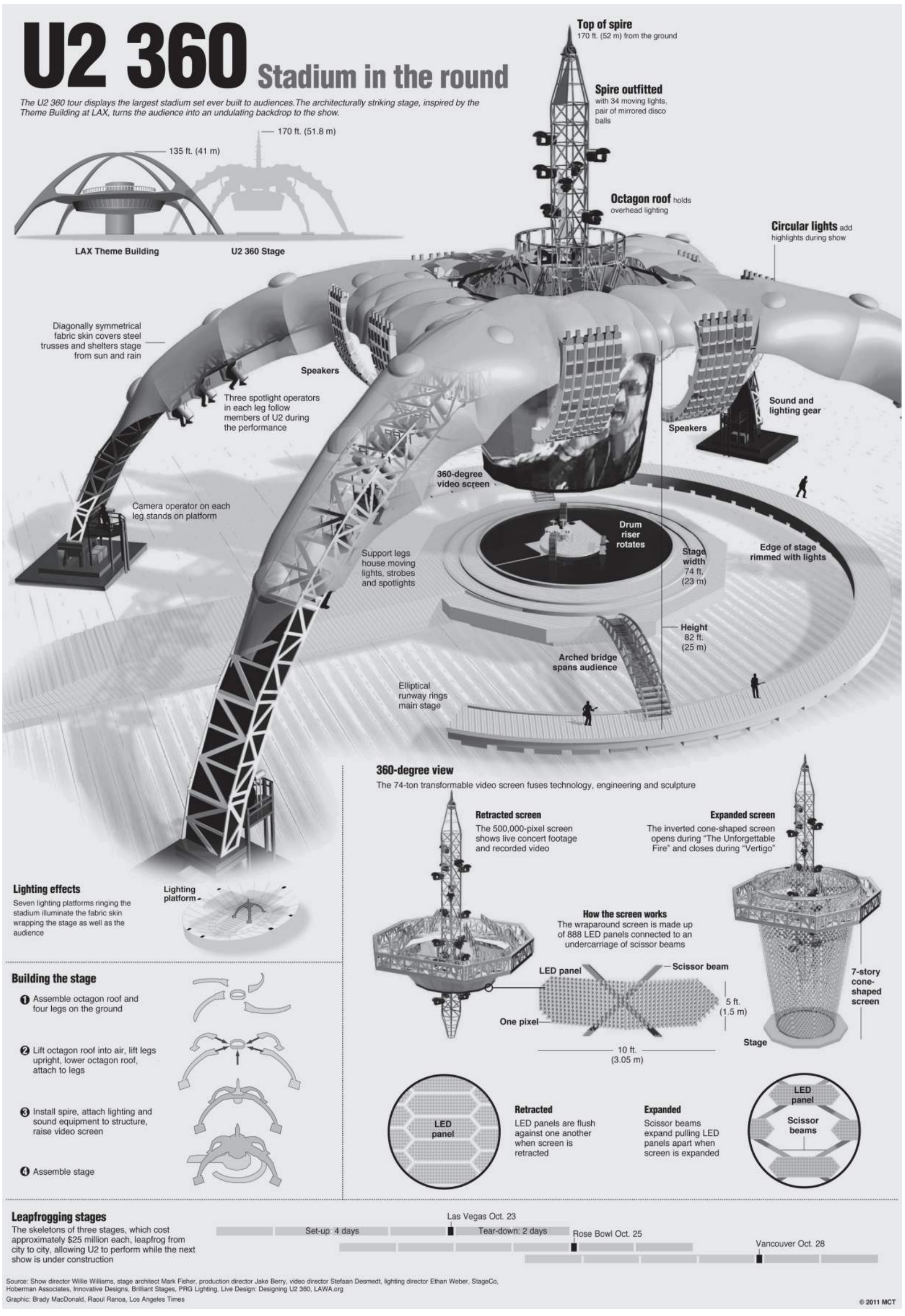
WASHINGTON (AP)—The Transportation Security Administration says it's installing new technology in some U.S. airports so when a traveler goes through checkpoint security, a generic outline of a person's body will be shown instead of the image of a naked body.

The agency says the change is intended to protect travelers' privacy rights while securing commercial air travel. It will be used in 40 airports, including in Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Miami and Newark.

The new software is designed to recognize items on the passenger that could pose a security threat.

The agency plans to eventually use this technology for more machines at more airports.

The whole body imaging machines have sparked outrage among passengers and privacy advocates because they reveal images of naked bodies.


U2 360
Stadium in the round
The U2 360 tour displays the largest stadium set ever built to audiences. The architecturally striking stage, inspired by the Theme Building at LAX, turns the audience into an undulating backdrop to the show.
170 ft. (51.8 m)
135 ft. (41 m)
LAX Theme Building
U2 360 Stage
Top of spire
170 ft. (52 m) from the ground
Spire outfitted
with 34 moving lights, pair of mirrored disco balls
Octagon roof holds overhead lighting
Circular lights add highlights during show
Diagonally symmetrical fabric skin covers steel trusses and shelters stage from sun and rain
Speakers
Three spotlight operators in each leg follow members of U2 during the performance
Sound and lighting gear
Speakers
360-degree video screen
Camera operator on each leg stands on platform
Drum riser rotates
Support legs house moving lights, strobes and spotlights
Stage width 74 ft. (23 m)
Edge of stage rimmed with lights
Height 82 ft. (25 m)
Arched bridge spans audience
Elliptical runway rings main stage
360-degree view
The 74-ton transformable video screen fuses technology, engineering and sculpture
Retracted screen
The 500,000-pixel screen shows live concert footage and recorded video
Expanded screen
The inverted cone-shaped screen opens during "The Unforgettable Fire" and closes during "Vertigo"
How the screen works
The wraparound screen is made up of 888 LED panels connected to an undercarriage of scissor beams
LED panel
Scissor beam
One pixel
5 ft. (1.5 m)
10 ft. (3.05 m)
Stage
7-story cone-shaped screen
Lighting effects
Seven lighting platforms ringing the stadium illuminate the fabric skin wrapping the stage as well as the audience
Lighting platform
Building the stage
1 Assemble octagon roof and four legs on the ground
2 Lift octagon roof into air, lift legs upright, lower octagon roof, attach to legs
3 Install spire, attach lighting and sound equipment to structure, raise video screen
4 Assemble stage
LED panel
Retracted
LED panels are flush against one another when screen is retracted
Expanded
Scissor beams expand pulling LED panels apart when screen is expanded
LED panel
Scissor beams
Leapfrogging stages
The skeletons of three stages, which cost approximately $25 million each, leapfrog from city to city, allowing U2 to perform while the next show is under construction
Las Vegas Oct. 23
Set-up: 4 days
Tear-down: 2 days
Rose Bowl Oct. 25
Vancouver Oct. 28
Source: Show director Willie Williams, stage architect Mark Fisher, production director Jake Berry, video director Stefaan Desmedt, lighting director Ethan Weber, StageCo, Hoberman Associates, Innovative Designs, Brilliant Stages, PRG Lighting, Live Design: Designing U2 360, LAWA.org
Graphic: Brady MacDonald, Raoul Ranoa, Los Angeles Times
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STUMP THE GEEKS

Autofill needs fulfilled

By ANNE KRISHNAN
THE NEWS & OBSERVER

Question: This is probably easy, but I can't find it. When I fill in a blank, such as an email login, several programs running under IE remember them. I may or may not tell the system to remember a password (usually not), but often tell it to "remember me on this machine." Then I type something in and hit return before I realize I've misspelled my name or put my login and password on the same line. After that, the error comes up whenever I get to that blank, usually opening as a pull-down. How do I edit my mistakes out of that listing?

Answer: You're right: The solution to removing erroneous autofill options is very easy.

Start by double-clicking in the text field so that the drop-down menu appears. Highlight the option that you want to remove by holding your mouse over it — but don't click on it. Then hit the "delete" key to remove the option from your autofill. This process also works with autofill email addresses in Outlook.

If you have a typo in a password, the process isn't quite as straightforward as you can't delete just one saved password using Internet Explorer.

However, you can use a small free program called IE PassView that allows you to view your login/password pairs and delete them as needed. Download it at www.nirsoft.net/utils/internet—explorer—password .html.

(A head's up: The developer warns that your antivirus/spyware program may balk at this application, but it has been certified clean by CNET's Download.com. Download it there, if you prefer, but be sure to click on the "Download Now" button and not on an ad.)

■ ■ ■

Q: I cannot get Internet Explorer to store any username/password of any bank or credit card account on my new laptop running Windows 7. It will store other website sign-ins. My other laptop with Vista has no problem storing these logins. The geeks at the store where I bought it can't figure it out either. Does Windows 7 block these kinds of stored logins, or is there some way to make it work?

A: The first thing to do is make sure you have your autocomplete settings correct, says Brandon Ambrose, a geek in the support group of Atlantic BT, a Raleigh, N.C., Web development company.

Go to "Tools," "Internet Options" and the "Content" tab. Under "Autocomplete," click on "Settings," and make sure the checkboxes for usernames and passwords are selected.

If they are, Ambrose points to one possible issue: If you have the Yahoo Toolbar installed, there is a known bug that can keep IE from storing passwords. You could try removing the toolbar and see whether that fixes the problem, he said. Consider removing other toolbars, too.

But his best recommendation to solve your problem and get some additional benefits is to use a third-party solution. He recommends LastPass for storing all of the passwords for sites you commonly visit and some additional useful features such as auto-login.

Download LastPass for free at www.lastpass.com, or pay $12 a year for a premium version.

Think you can stump the geeks? Send your high-tech question to stumpthegeeks@newsobserver.com. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number. Individual replies are not given.

Off The Wall

Tortoise gets artificial wheel at vet hospital

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—Watch out Mr. Hare, this tortoise has a wheel.

A 12-year-old African tortoise that recently had its front left leg amputated due to injury is now moving just fine, thanks to a swiveling wheel attached to his shell by doctors at Washington State University's veterinary hospital.

The 23-pound tortoise, named Gamera after the giant flying turtle of the old Japanese monster movies, is gaining weight and generally thriving with his new appendage.

"I don't know whether he'd pass the hare, but he moves around very well," said Charlie Powell, spokesman for WSU's veterinary hospital in Pullman, Wash.

The nearly teenage mutant turtle is particularly good at moving toward food, and has gained 3 pounds since the wheel was attached, Powell said.

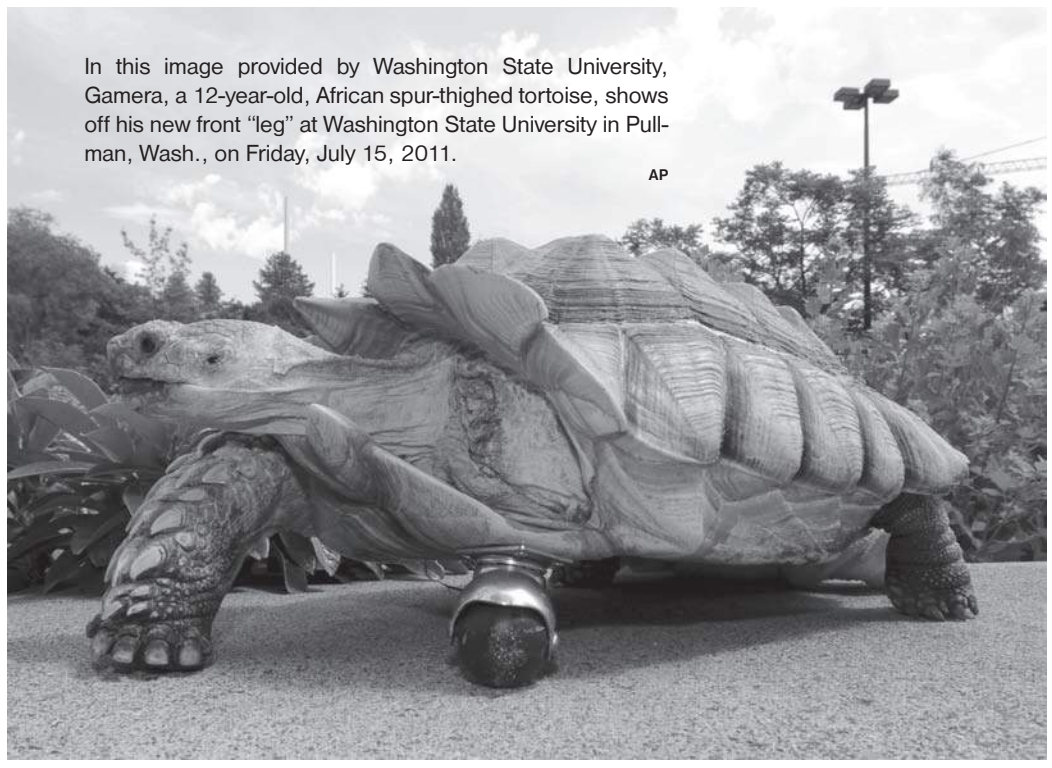
The caster-style wheel should last for years before it has to be replaced, he said.

Powell said the caster-style allows Gamera to move well on both flat and lumpy surfaces like lawns.

The African spur-thighed tortoise was brought to the WSU hospital in April by its owner, suffering from a severe leg injury with an unknown cause, WSU officials said. The injury was life-threatening so the leg was amputated at the shoulder.

Veterinarians attached the wheel to the tortoise's shell using an epoxy adhesive, and the animal took to the new device immediately, WSU officials said.

The tortoise is part of a larger group called sulcata tortoises that are popular as exotic pets in the United States. The largest such tortoise on record topped 232 pounds. The oldest known sulcata tortoise in captivity is 56 years old.



In this image provided by Washington State University, Gamera, a 12-year-old, African spur-thighed tortoise, shows off his new front "leg" at Washington State University in Pullman, Wash., on Friday, July 15, 2011.

AP

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Idaho daughter and mother get DUIs an hour apart

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (AP)—Idaho authorities say a mother and daughter were arrested for drunken driving within an hour of each other—the mother when she went to pick up her daughter's dog. The Post Register reports a sheriff's officer stopped 28-year-old Alisha Gardner at 10:56 p.m. Saturday in Idaho Falls after spotting her car swerving and crossing the centerline. Sgt. Jeff Edwards says her blood-alcohol level was twice the legal limit, so Gardner was taken to jail. Just under an hour later, 51-year-old Diana Gardner arrived to pick up her daughter's dog, which was in the car. An officer smelled alcohol on her and a test revealed that her blood-alcohol level was also twice the legal limit, so she was arrested. The report did not say what happened to the dog.

Happy hour in court as Swiss judges test cocktails

GENEVA (AP)—It's a tough job, but someone's got to do it. Swiss daily Tages-Anzeiger reports that judges at one of the country's highest courts held a midmorning cocktail event to determine whether a drinks company's canned beverages are sweet enough to be taxed as alcopops. The paper says two judges and a court clerk convened the 10 a.m. tipple at the Federal Administrative Court in Bern on April 14. They tested each of the company's five drinks twice—with and without ice. Representatives of the Swiss Alcohol Board and Zurich drinks importer Bevis joined in too. The court confirmed Wednesday that the judges' verdict was that the drinks tasted like alcopops, as sweetened alcoholic beverages are known.

Man afraid of heights gets stuck on bungee ride

DALLAS (AP)—A suburban Dallas woman's well-meaning attempt to help her future husband overcome his fear of heights went horribly wrong when a bungee ride they were in got stuck 50 feet off the ground for three hours because cables got tangled. Irving residents William Mancera and Thalia Rodriguez were not injured during their Monday ordeal. Dallas firefighters eventually used an aerial ladder truck to help get the couple safely to the ground. Mancera tells KXAS-TV that his fear of heights "won again" and he is "never riding anything of that sort ever again." But he also says the ordeal has brought him and his fiancee closer together. They plan to marry in February. The ride remains closed as the company that operates it investigates why the malfunction happened.

Northborough, Mass.: Where streets have no name

NORTHBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Police in one Massachusetts town are investigating the mysterious disappearance of about 100 street signs. The signs first starting vanishing from Northborough street corners about six months ago. It's an expensive problem. Public Works Director Kara Buzanoski says the cost of replacing them is about $15,000. Buzanoski and police Chief Mark Leahy suspect teenage pranksters, but so far there have been no arrests. The town had a similar problem a few years ago when several teens were apparently involved in a contest to see how many signs they could purloin. When police started closing in on those culprits, the signs started reappearing. Leahy says this time the thieves will be prosecuted.

Fire squad pulls racehorse from Fla. swimming pool

MELBOURNE, Fla. (AP)—A force of specially trained firefighters got the call when a 6-year-old former racehorse took a 5-hour dip in a Florida swimming pool. Officials say three teenage boys were swimming Tuesday afternoon when the horse nosed its way into a screened-in enclosure in a neighborhood of equestrian estates. The boys tried to lead the horse away, but it got spooked and backed into the pool. The teens and the homeowner tried to get the horse to walk up the pool stairs, but their efforts failed. They called in a wrecker, placed straps under the horse's belly and used the truck to lift the animal out of the water.

Men suspected of hallucinating call 911 for help

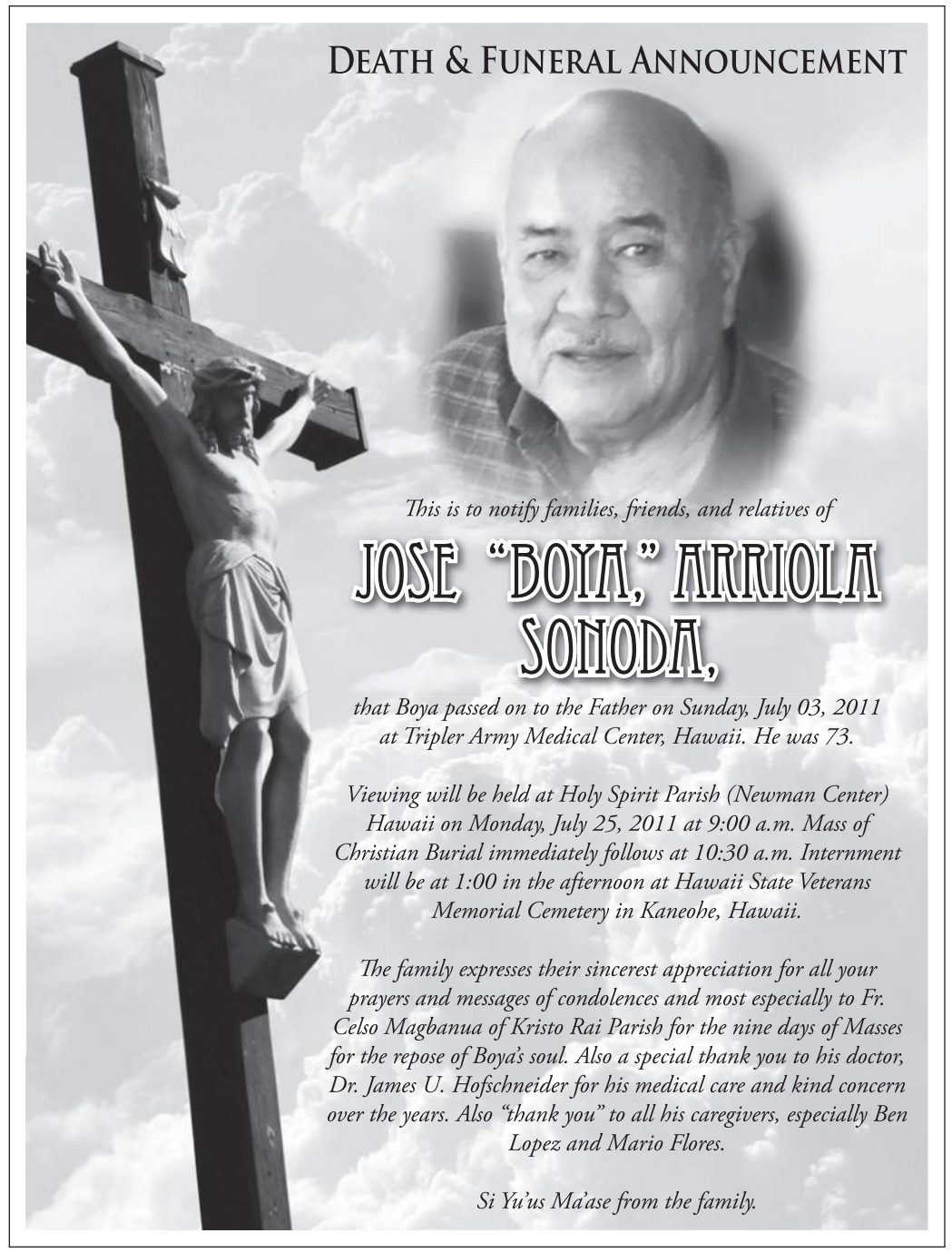
SPRINGFIELD, Ga. (AP)—South Georgia authorities say two men became so high on drugs they began hallucinating and called 911 when they thought intruders had broken into a home. Effingham County sheriff's spokesman David Ehsanipoor said the pair is suspected of using methamphetamine around the time they called 911 for help early Tuesday. Deputies responding around 4 a.m. to the home outside Savannah were told by the pair that people in a back bedroom had broken into the home, but no intruders were found. Ehsanipoor said deputies realized they were hallucinating. He said "they were so high they called 911 on themselves."

Jailed bride charged in Mich. with identity theft

JACKSON, Mich. (AP)—A woman arrested on her wedding day and jailed while wearing a white gown and veil has been arraigned on identity theft charges. The Jackson Citizen Patriot reports Wednesday that 53-year-old Tammy Lee Hinton is accused of using or trying to use her son's identification to get phone and utility service, and a credit card. The theft was reported in 2009 and a warrant was issued. Hinton told Bishop on Wednesday that she didn't "know any of those things." Police say she'd been living in Florida.

Nevada lawsuit filed over 'GOPALIN' license plate

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Nevada's motor vehicles director says he'll make the final decision on personalized license plates issued to state residents after a northern Nevada man filed a federal lawsuit alleging he was unconstitutionally blocked from obtaining a custom tag that says "GOPALIN." Department of Motor Vehicles chief Bruce Breslow and a spokeswoman for the state attorney general said Monday that they can't comment on the lawsuit James Linlor filed July 15 in Reno's U.S. District Court. But they note that he was granted a "GOPALIN" plate in December. It alleges discrimination because the state issued other politically inspired license plates, including "DMOCRAT," "AL GORE," "DEAN," "HILLARY" and "RONPAUL," before Linlor's choice was approved.


DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT
This is to notify families, friends, and relatives of
JOSE "BOYA," ARRIOLA SONODA,
that Boya passed on to the Father on Sunday, July 03, 2011 at Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii. He was 73.
Viewing will be held at Holy Spirit Parish (Newman Center) Hawaii on Monday, July 25, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial immediately follows at 10:30 a.m. Internment will be at 1:00 in the afternoon at Hawaii State Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Kaneohe, Hawaii.
The family expresses their sincerest appreciation for all your prayers and messages of condolences and most especially to Fr. Celso Magbanua of Kristo Rai Parish for the nine days of Masses for the repose of Boya's soul. Also a special thank you to his doctor, Dr. James U. Hofschneider for his medical care and kind concern over the years. Also "thank you" to all his caregivers, especially Ben Lopez and Mario Flores.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase from the family.

Life & Style

Jersey Shore Party: A method to the night's madness

Sure, the party is usually all about "The Situation," "Snookie," "Paulie D," "Vinnie," "J-Woww," "Ronnie," "Sammie," "Angelina," and new cast member "Deena," but on July 16, 2011, Joe's Bar opened its doors at 7pm for a party that was just as insane, fun, and crazy.

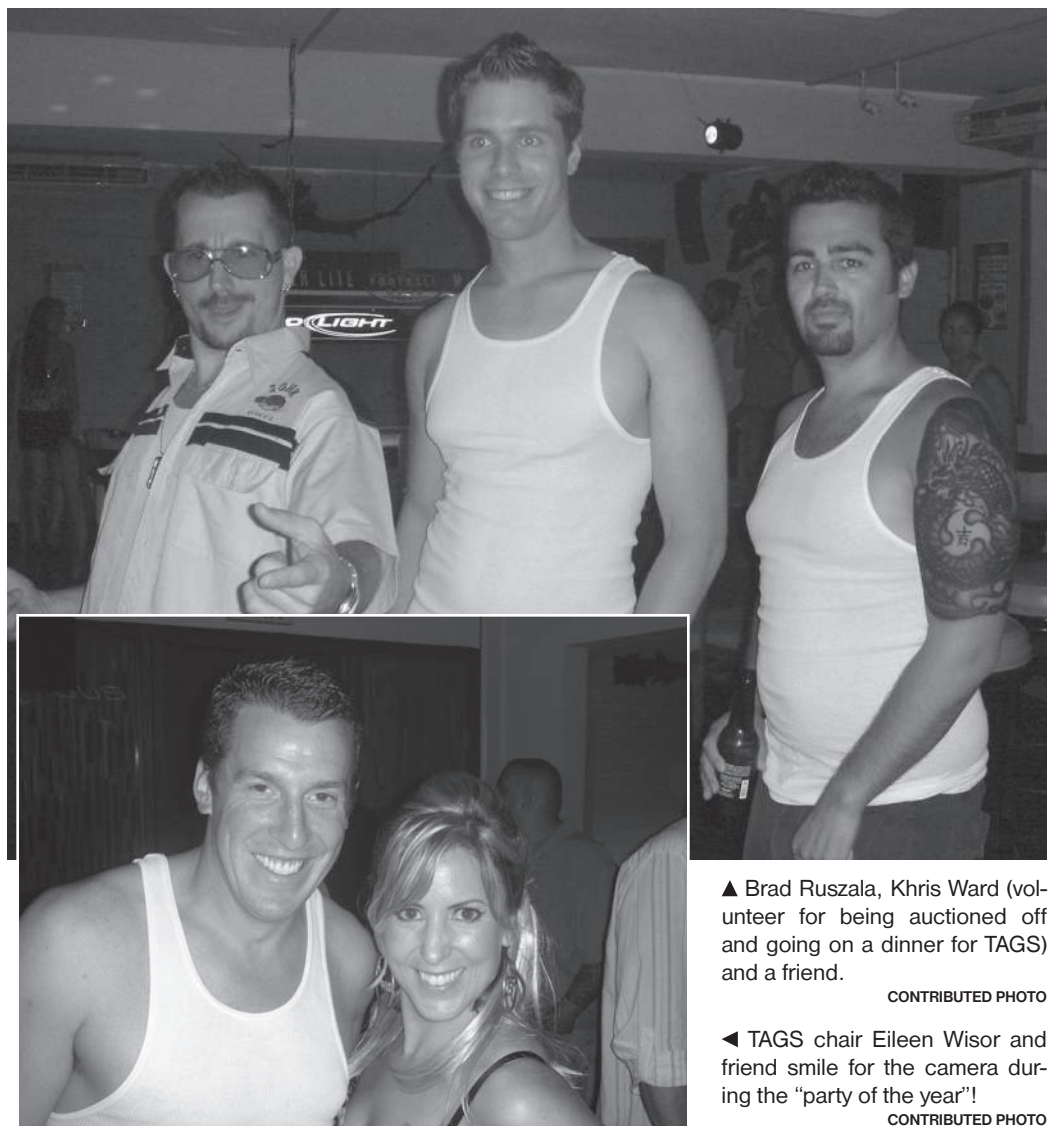
"My favorite event by far was the dinner auction with the people who volunteered their time as dinner dates," said Brad Ruszala, the night's emcee. "There was some serious competition for the dance-off, but the bidding for dinner dates got plenty of laughs and brought in a bunch of money for TAGS."

And that, ultimately, was the method behind the madness. The party—organized by TAGS (Turtle Advocate Guidance Society) and planned by Bernard Rivera—was intended to raise funds for sea turtle conservation efforts on Saipan. The effort apparently paid off, with TAGS chair Eileen Escudero Wisor saying that Saturday's event raised thrice the amount they did with their art exhibit.

"We outdid ourselves…but we knew we could do it," Wisor said. "Everyone I spoke to leading up to the event was excited about the theme. After the party we got amazing feedback. Everyone had a blast, many having said it was the 'party of the year.' A coworker even joked that he wished it could be the Jersey Shore party every weekend. Friends that couldn't make it were really sorry they missed it."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A group of friends enjoying the Jersey Shore party!



▲ Brad Ruszala, Khris Ward (volunteer for being auctioned off and going on a dinner for TAGS) and a friend.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

◄ TAGS chair Eileen Wisor and friend smile for the camera during the "party of the year"!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The main goal is to make sure "people have such a good time that they generate a lot of talk about turtles, TAGS, and what a great time the fundraiser was," she added. "We aim to raise awareness first and fund our projects second."

TAGS seems to have succeeded in that respect. One of the night's guests, Shelli Neal, said: "I've never seen a sea turtle but I'm all for protecting endangered animals."

The Jersey Shore theme party kicked off with music by opening act Island Thyme Band before DJ Sly brought it to full gear.

"The band and emcee killed it. The music was great, and the emcee did a wonderful job of staying in character the whole evening," said Khris Ward, one of the volunteers who let himself be auctioned for a date. "I think it's imperative that TAGS keep doing whatever it can to keep the turtles safe from poachers/environmental hazards."

With the success of the Jersey Shore party, TAGS has decided to throw another theme party later this year. Saturday night's sponsors were Godfathers Bar, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Marpac, Docomo Pacific, IT&E, Joe's Bar 'The Steak House Capital', Seventh Day Adventist, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Marianas Trekking. ***(PR)***

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Captain America: The First Avenger

Fri and Sat 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
Sun thru Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25

Chris Evans, Tommy Lee Jones
Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Meek U.S. Army soldier Steve Rogers (Chris Evans) takes part in an experimental military program that infuses him with super-human powers, and uses his newfound strength to battle the villainous Red Skull (Hugo Weaving) in this comic-book adventure from director Joe Johnston (The Wolfman, The Rocketeer). Tommy Lee Jones, Neal McDonough, and Stanley Tucci co-star in a film written by Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeeley.

Friends With Benefits

Fri and Sat 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sun thru Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05

Justin Timberlake, Mila Kunis
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis
A New York headhunter (Mila Kunis) enters into a no-strings-attached relationship with her latest client (Justin Timberlake), but finds things getting unexpectedly complicated when emotions enter the picture. Patricia Clarkson and Woody Harrelson co-star.

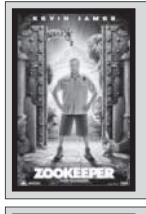
★ ★ ★

Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows-Part2

Fri and Sat 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sun thru Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:15

Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
Action, Adventure, Drama • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
The final adventure in the Harry Potter film series follows Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Ron (Rupert Grint), and Hermione (Emma Watson) as they prepare for a final battle with Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes), who is determined to destroy Harry once and for all. In order to defeat the powerful wizard, they must find and destroy Voldemort's last and most elusive Horcrux—that is, the enchanted piece of soul allowing him to remain immortal—before his nefarious plans come to fruition.



Zookeeper

Fri and Sat 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:40
Sun thru Thurs 1:30 4:30 7:30

Kevin James, Rosario Dawson
Comedy • Rated PG

Horrible Bosses

Fri and Sat 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:30
Sun thru Thurs 1:20 4:20 7:20

Jason Bateman, Jennifer Aniston
Comedy • Rated R

Transformers: Dark of the Moon

Fri and Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sun thru Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00

Shia LaBeouf, Josh Duhamel
Action, Science fiction • Rated PG 13

Bad Teacher

Fri and Sat 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
Sun thru Thurs 1:10 4:10 7:10

Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake
Comedy • Rated R

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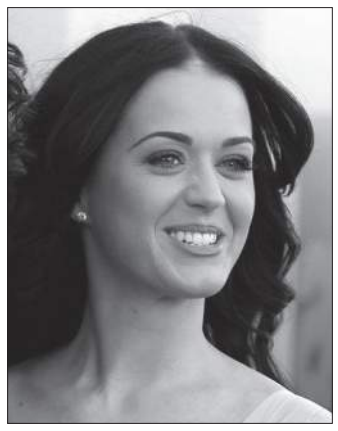
Katy Perry notches 9 MTV VMA Award nominations

NEW YORK (AP)—Katy Perry's "Firework" had enough sparks to claim a leading nine MTV Video Music Award nominations, including video of the year.

Perry—who hosted the network's Wednesday night special announcing the nominations—was also nominated for best female video for "Firework," as well as best pop video for "Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)."

Adele tied Kanye West with seven nominations. The best-selling British diva will compete with Perry for top video with "Rolling in the Deep." Others in the category include the Beastie Boys for "Make Some Noise"; rapper Tyler, the Creator for "Goblin"; and Bruno Mars for "Grenade."



Perry

Mars was nominated for four Moonman trophies. Other multiple nominees include Lady Gaga, Beyonce and Eminem.

The VMAs are scheduled for Aug. 28 in Los Angeles and will air live.

Kim Kardashian sues Old Navy over lookalike in ads

Kardashian

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kim Kardashian wants Old Navy to stop using a lookalike to advertise its clothing.

The reality show starlet and model on Wednesday sued the clothing store and its parent company, The Gap Inc., in a Los Angeles federal court alleging their ads violated her publicity rights with ads that feature a woman who looks like her.

A video of a broadcast ad featuring a smiling, dark-haired woman who bears a resemblance to the real Kardashian has been viewed more than two million times on Old Navy's YouTube channel.

Kardashian's lawsuit claims consumers may be confused by the ads and the model's actual endorsements, which include her own clothing store and shoe line. A commercial, titled, "Super C-U-T-E," began airing in February and Old Navy is still using some of the promotions, the lawsuit states.

The case cites all the benchmarks of modern celebrity: her eight million followers on Twitter, more than five million fans on Facebook and ranking as one of the most searched-for celebrities on the Internet.

Kardashian "has invested substantial time, energy, finances and entrepreneurial effort in developing her considerable professional and commercial achievements and success, as well as in developing her popularity, fame, and prominence in the public eye," the lawsuit states.

Louise Callagy, a spokeswoman for San Francisco-based Gap said the company has not yet seen the case and had no comment.

Kardashian, 31, has rocketed to fame in recent years after gaining prominence as a friend of Paris Hilton and for having a sex tape. She appears along with her family on the E! Entertainment Television series "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" and routinely graces magazine covers.

Her lawsuit is seeking unspecified damages and wants a federal judge to prevent Old Navy from using a Kardashian lookalike model in its ads again.

The model in the ads, Melissa Molinaro, is not named in the lawsuit. She expressed exasperation that the resemblance was being pointed out again. "Were (sic) still talking about this," she posted on Twitter, noting the ad ran five months ago. "Some people have too much time on (their) hands."

Actor Daniel Baldwin's wife gets 10 days in jail

LAKE OSWEGO, Ore. (AP)—A contrite former model married to actor Daniel Baldwin promised a judge on Wednesday that she would begin Alcoholics Anonymous meetings as soon as she finishes a 10-day sentence for violating probation on a drunken driving conviction.

"Obviously, alcohol has not been your friend," Judge Bruce Shepley told Joanne Baldwin, who was jailed July 13 after her husband reported that she became violent when she drank and had threatened to kill him.

Baldwin, 41, will get credit for time served in jail.

"I've been quite broken of late," she said at a 20-minute hearing in the Portland suburb of Lake Oswego. "I'm going to try to fix myself."

Baldwin said she has used alcohol to medicate herself from "internal pain." The judge ordered her to wear an alcohol-monitoring device until he decides she no longer needs it, and said he would jail her again if the device alerted any alcohol use.

Daniel Baldwin did not attend the hearing. He has filed for divorce and was granted a restraining order against her.

In seeking a restraining order, Daniel Baldwin said his wife broke her probation "hundreds of times" after a second drunken driving conviction in June 2010.

Baldwin

Daniel Baldwin, 50, said police told him to take their two children out of the couple's house on July 10, where he said the children witnessed his wife punching him in the face.

Joanne Baldwin's aggressiveness and drinking escalated since the first signs of violence, Daniel Baldwin said in the complaint.

In January, she said she had watched a documentary on women who killed their husbands, Baldwin wrote, and quoted her as saying "'Now I know how to do it, I understand why they did it. You have been warned. Move out of this house or I am going to kill you.'"

Baldwin said that statement was overheard by the couple's children, the older of whom later asked him: "Is Mommy going to kill us?"

'Idol' creator sues for stake in rival 'X-Factor'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The creator of "American Idol" sued the show's broadcaster and producer claiming they have reneged on a deal to give him a stake in a rival competition show that is about to premiere in the United States.

Producer Simon Fuller is seeking an executive producer credit and the appropriate fees once "The X-Factor"—which was created by former "Idol" judge Simon Cowell—begins airing its U.S.-debut in September. His lawsuit is against Fox Broadcasting Co. and the show's production company, FremantleMedia North America.

Fox will air both "Idol" and "X-Factor," and FremantleMedia is producing both shows.

The lawsuit reignites long-standing tension between the forces that made "American Idol" one of the past decade's most popular shows in the United States.

Fuller imported the format from Britain, where he launched "Pop Idol." The U.S. version debuted in 2001 and featured Cowell as a judge whose biting remarks to contestants became a fixture and a ratings magnet.

Cowell created "X-Factor" three years later; it also premiered in England.

That prompted Fuller to sue Cowell for copyright infringement, and according to his lawsuit, Fox and Fremantle stepped in to preserve "American Idol."

Fuller's lawsuit claims he settled the case in 2005 against Cowell after Fox and Fremantle promised him that "X-Factor" would not air in the United States until 2011, Cowell would remain an "Idol" judge for five more seasons, and Fuller would be granted an executive producer credit on Cowell's show if it ever aired in the United States.

"Despite the clear agreement to grant Fuller an executive producer credit and to pay him an executive producer fee, defendants have refused to honor their obligations and have further refused to negotiate in good faith," the lawsuit states.

Katie Couric to co-host ABC's 'The View' on Aug. 3

Couric

NEW YORK (AP)—Katie Couric will soon get some practice at hosting her own daytime talk show, thanks to "The View."

Executive producer Bill Geddie said Wednesday that Couric will be a guest co-host on the ABC talk show airing live on Aug. 3.

Last month, it was announced that ABC and Disney had signed Couric as host and producer of a one-hour nationally syndicated talk show premiering in September 2012. She also is joining the ABC News team.

Couric was a longtime co-anchor of NBC's "Today" show and, until May, anchored the "CBS Evening News."

"The View" airs weekdays at 11 a.m. Eastern time. Its regular panel of co-hosts includes Barbara Walters, Whoopi Goldberg, Joy Behar (BAY'-har), Elisabeth Hasselbeck and Sherri Shepherd.

Fundraiser to pay for adoption rubs friend the wrong way

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My best friend "Zoe" is unable to have children. She tried in vitro four times without success. The doctors told her there's nothing else they can do. Her uterus is not able to carry a child to term.

Zoe and her husband have decided to adopt. However, it is very expensive and all of their savings went toward the IVF treatments. Zoe's mom wants to have a benefit to raise money for them. I am against the idea because, in my opinion, benefits are given for something you don't choose (like cancer or a house fire). Adopting a child is a choice.

I live paycheck-to-paycheck as it is, and I don't feel comfortable donating to this cause. What if they change their minds after the benefit or the adoption doesn't work out? What will they do with the money then?

Is what they're planning acceptable? Am I wrong to feel this way? I know I'll be talked about by Zoe and her mother if I don't contribute.

FRIEND IN CONFLICT

DEAR FRIEND IN CONFLICT: Whether Zoe and her mother retaliate by gossiping about you is beside the point. I see nothing wrong with a benefit.

If Zoe and her husband can't afford to adopt a baby, another option they might consider is becoming foster parents. There are thousands of children who need good homes and loving parents and that, to me, would be the perfect solution. Please suggest it to them. If you are living paycheck-to-paycheck, then you do not have money to donate to this cause or any other right now.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 19-year-old student who works. Recently, I was talking with a co-worker about life, the economy and tough times. As we conversed I mentioned that I use hand soap as shampoo and body wash to save money. A few days later, during my lunch hour, I found grocery bags containing toiletries in the back of my vehicle. I didn't say anything about it to him, but he mentioned "seeing someone" put something in my car.

I feel uneasy about this. I didn't mean to throw a pity party. I'm unsure whether to accept this "anonymous" gift. It was a nice gesture, but I don't want it to become a regular occurrence. Should I say something?

HAVE MY PRIDE IN ARIZONA

DEAR HAS YOUR PRIDE: Yes. Write your co-worker a short note, thanking him for his generous gift. Then say you think he is caring and thoughtful, but you are accepting his gift only as a onetime gesture.

DEAR ABBY: A dear friend, "Harold," passed away suddenly from a heart attack. Since we knew his wishes, he was cremated. Harold always hated having his picture taken, so the only photo available for display at his memorial was his driver's license photo, and he looked like a deer in the headlights.

I wish we'd had a few candid shots of Harold to remember him by. I would have loved to have kept one for myself. Please urge your camera-phobic readers to permit family and friends to snap a shot or two of them every once in a while, before it's too late. Thanks.

MISSING HIM IN ILLINOIS

DEAR MISSING HIM: Please accept my condolences. The fear that the only picture available for their memorial would be a driver's license photo (or a mug shot) may convince my camera-shy readers to relent. But don't count on it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

A LITTLE LOWER...OK, FINE!
THANKS FOR HELPING ME PUT UP THIS SWING.
WHERE DID YOU EVER FIND THIS GREAT TIRE?
CALVIN! I'VE GOT TO GO TO WORK!!

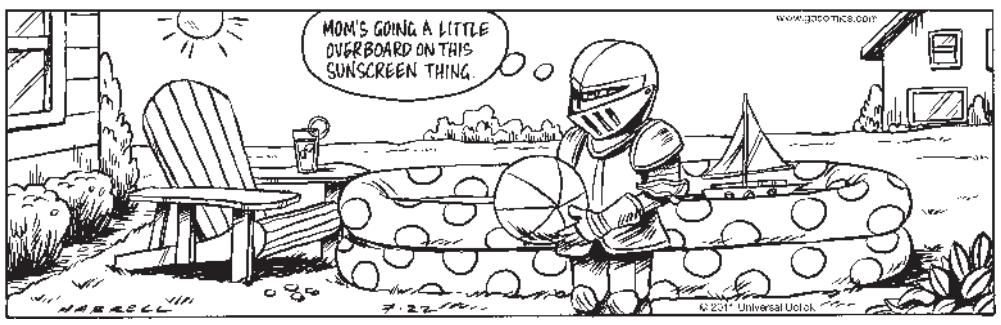
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE MEDAL I WON AS THE WORLD'S FASTEST SNAIL?
SURE
DARN! I LEFT IT AT HOME
I'LL BE BACK IN A WEEK
I'LL BE HERE
JIM DAVIS 7-22

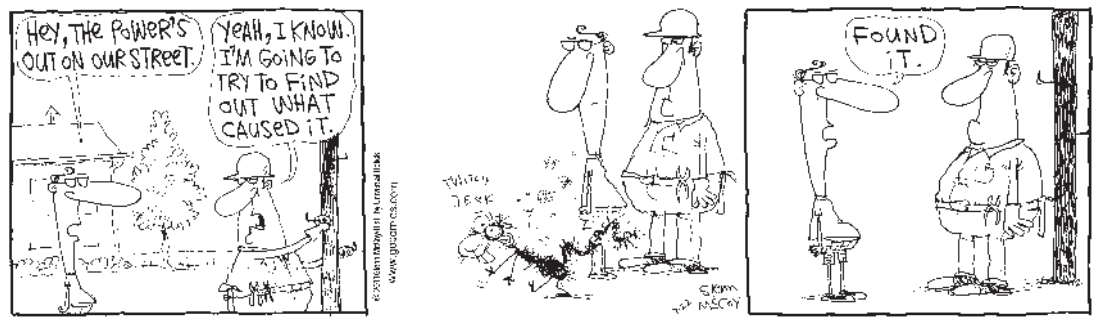
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Nonstick spray brand
4 Stylish
8 Actress Cannon
12 Census statistic
13 Comic Jay
14 Singer McEntire
15 Client
17 Simple
18 Rip to shreds
19 Gripe constantly
21 Egos' counterparts
22 Martha Washington's first husband
26 Postpone
29 Navigation hindrance
30 Shad product
31 On the rocks
32 Angry group
33 November responsibility
34 Lanka preceder
35 Carton
36 Satellite of Saturn
37 Little Bighorn loser
39 Canto lead-in
40 Previously
41 Dormant
45 Loutish sort
48 Pudding-like desserts
50 Data, for short
51 Manitoba native
52 Electees
53 Nimble-fingered
54 Shoppe adjective
55 Grimalkin

DOWN
1 Treaty
2 Chills and fever
3 Arizona city
4 Pre-storm forecast
5 Rope fibers
6 Amino acid suffix
7 Pipe type
8 Sediment
9 Favorable vote
10 Six-pack muscles
11 Opposite of 9-Down
16 Three-some
20 Summertime mo.
23 Jog
24 Tittle
25 Spotted
26 Platter
27 Beige
28 Mainlanders' mementos
29 "The Simpsons" network
32 Casablanca's country
33 Country estate
35 Plead
36 Exam taker
38 Pack to the future?
39 Founded (on)
42 Clapton or Idle
43 Writer Ferber
44 "Hey, you!"
45 Auction action
46 Inseparable
47 Vacationing
49 Web address

Solution time: 25 mins.

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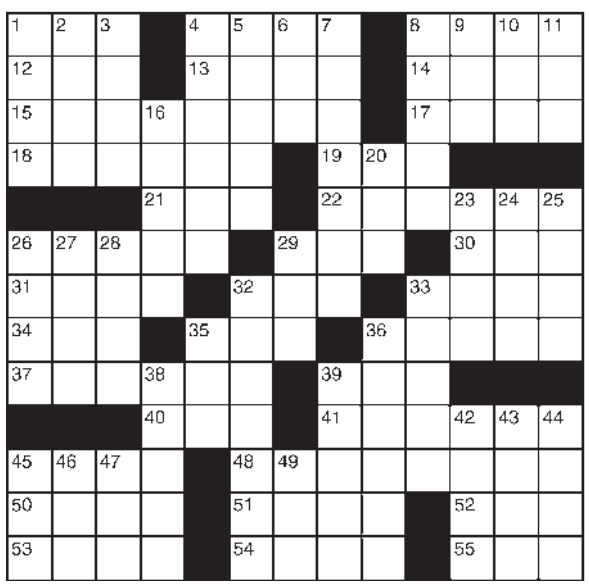
Yesterday's answer 7-22



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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Selena Gomez, 19; Rufus Wainwright, 38; David Spade, 47; Albert Brooks, 64.

Happy Birthday: Stop second-guessing what you should do next. Make a choice before it?s made for you. This is a year to embrace change, not run in the opposite direction. You want to send a clear message that you are not one to be pushed around. Being a little headstrong will help you get your way. Expressing your views and concerns passionately will lead to the success you desire. Your numbers are 5, 11, 17, 22, 30, 37, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take action when dealing with friends, neighbors and relatives. Your reputation will precede you, bringing about new opportunities. Don't let an emotional problem slow you down or stand in your way. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't hold back, when what you need is to be more outspoken. You'll be delighted by the number of people who feel the same way you do. You will find it easy to accomplish your goals once you get started. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Unusual circumstances will arise at work regarding a colleague or client. Do your best to help out. Your attention to the matter will be noticed by someone in charge. Good fortune is heading your way. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Consider signing up for a course that will allow you to diversify or change your vocation altogether. Someone you have worked with in the past will have some noteworthy thoughts with regard to your current situation. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make a statement. You will pick up information that is critical to something you are interested in pursuing. A display of emotion will let others know how strongly you feel. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You will gain popularity if you relax and have some fun or if you join a group that will expand your interests. It is best to avoid altercations with co-workers. Plan to attend a function in the evening that will help you make new acquaintances. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let your responsibilities cause you to miss out on something you really want to do. Before you make a decision to change your living arrangements, consider the consequences. It may cost you more than you realize. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You can impress others with your mental and physical abilities, your sportsmanship and your innovative ideas. You will attract partners and make new friends if you get out and enjoy events. A chance to enhance a love relationship will develop if you include him or her in your plans. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Take a close look at the information you are being given. Not everyone will be telling you the whole truth, and it's vital that you get the facts before you make a decision that will alter your future. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Uncertainty should be a warning signal to take a wait-and-see approach to a matter concerning a friend, relative or neighbor. If you offer your assistance before you understand what's transpired, you may get caught in the middle of a mess. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Money matters are looking up, and a chance to use your talents to make extra cash will develop. Someone offering something that is too good to be true is probably trying to take advantage of you. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Avoid a fight with someone you are close to and you will be able to enjoy your day and make headway with your projects. You can enhance a love relationship by mingling with other singles or making special plans for two. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have guts, and you aren't one to sit on the sidelines. You are a strong competitor and an advocate of your beliefs and traditions.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6			9		2			4
			7	3	6			
9		5				3		7
		1		5		6		
8		7				4		2
			3	1	8			
7			4		9			6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	8	1	4	5	9	3	6	2
6	3	4	1	2	7	5	9	8
5	2	9	6	3	8	4	7	1
9	1	2	5	7	6	8	3	4
8	4	6	2	9	3	1	5	7
3	5	7	8	4	1	9	2	6
4	6	3	9	8	2	7	1	5
1	9	5	7	6	4	2	8	3
2	7	8	3	1	5	6	4	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'CATCH ME IF YOU CAN' **Solution: 6 letters**

G	E	C	K	C	O	U	N	T	R	I	E	S	E	T
R	A	N	A	S	H	W	L	Y	R	E	H	C	T	N
E	A	R	I	T	A	A	E	P	A	U	L	A	A	E
B	O	L	N	L	C	N	R	O	G	E	R	I	N	G
L	L	I	K	E	R	H	N	M	O	S	C	K	O	A
E	S	E	R	O	R	I	E	N	E	I	H	C	S	F
I	N	M	T	P	L	P	A	S	R	R	A	E	R	R
P	E	T	A	O	A	R	N	T	P	R	N	H	E	A
S	A	A	R	C	D	C	A	O	L	O	Ⓚ	C	P	N
P	L	B	S	O	S	I	I	F	M	Ⓒ	S	Y	M	C
O	O	E	R	T	D	P	I	D	Ⓐ	I	E	E	I	E
L	A	M	A	E	I	N	C	Ⓙ	C	N	S	M	S	O
I	N	G	P	L	N	N	N	R	O	N	L	I	A	J
C	E	E	O	E	A	D	A	M	S	E	G	R	O	F
E	Z	T	U	B	O	M	A	D	R	O	T	C	O	D

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Adams, Agent, Airline, Attorney, Bank, Brenda, Brolin, Butz, Carl, Catches, Charmer, Check, Cheryl, Countries, Crime, DiCaprio, Doctor, Eastin, Ellis, Escape, Finn, Forges, France, Garner, Hanks, Impersonate, Jack, Jail, Leonardo, Loan, Marci, Money, Paula, Pediatrician, Pilot, Police, Pompeo, Poses, Roger, Scams, Sheen, Simon, Spielberg, Stage, Walken

Yesterday's Answer: Comedy

The NEW Treasury of Wonderwords, by famous puzzle creator David Ouellet, is available for $12.95 each plus $2.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total) from: Universal Uclick, The Treasury of Wonderwords, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Add sales tax if you live in Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Colorado, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Oklahoma, Virginia, New York or California. To charge your purchase, call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Order online at www.amuzzlement.com. Each book contains 150 puzzles, 50 of which are new for 2011. Ages 10+

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Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. **MOSES M. SAN NICOLAS,** Defendant.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0119-CV** **AMENDED SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT MOSES M. SAN NICOLAS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT within twenty (20) days after service of this AMENDED SUMMONS upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Ilimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this AMENDED SUMMONS, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

SO ORDERED on this 13th day of July, 2011.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

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Attorney for Administratrix
Luise Villagomez Sanchez

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF **JOSEPH PANGELINAN VILLAGOMEZ** Deceased.	**Civil Action No. 10-0217**

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL DECREE OF DISTRIBUTION

Date: August 16, 2011
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: Honorable Robert C. Naraja

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JOSEPH PANGELINAN VILLAGOMEZ:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Luise Villagomez Sanchez, Administratrix of the Estate of Joseph Pangelinan Villagomez, has filed with the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands a **Petition for Final Decree of Distribution. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.**

The hearing on Petitioner's Petition for Final Decree of Distribution has been set for **16th day of August, 2011 at 1:30 pm**, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma' Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 15th day of July 2011.

Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Dai Wei
P.O. Box 504849 XMB 118
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 483-4011

Pro Se,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DAI WEI Petitioner, vs. **ZHANG YUNZHONG** Respondent.	**FCD CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0065** **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:
ZHANG YUNZHONG

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is **P.O. Box 504849 XMB 118 Saipan, MP 96950** as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 11th day of July, 2011.

/s/Clerk of Court

WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: Jul. 15, 2011 **POSITION:** Accounting Supervisor/Assistant Manager
CLOSE DATE: Jul. 22, 2011 **SALARY:** $6.00 - $7.50/per hour

Qualifications: Graduate from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in accounting or a closely related field and three (3) years of professional accounting experience with supervisory experience required. Knowledge of Opera System preferred. CPA strongly recommended but not required.

OPEN DATE: Jul. 15, 2011 **POSITION:** Prim/Lifeguard
CLOSE DATE: Jul. 22, 2011 **SALARY:** $5.05/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and First-aid and lifeguard certifications preferred, but not required. Sports, recreation, and hospitality industry experience also a plus.

OPEN DATE: Jul. 15, 2011 **POSITION:** Purchasing Agent
CLOSE DATE: Jul. 22, 2011 **SALARY:** $5.05/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and one (1) year work experience in Purchasing (or related field) and customer service experience required. Knowledge of MS Office. Strong proficiency in Microsoft Excel highly recommended.

OPEN DATE: Jul. 15, 2011 **POSITION:** Chef (Korean Cuisine)
CLOSE DATE: Jul. 22, 2011 **SALARY:** $6.00- $7.00/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and at least (3) year work experience and knowledge in Korean Cuisine and customer service experience required. Experience and knowledge in preparing for banquet a plus.

OPEN DATE: Jul. 15, 2011 **POSITION:** Spa Attendant
CLOSE DATE: Jul. 22, 2011 **SALARY:** $5.05/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and at least one (1) year work experience and some knowledge of fitness equipment. Customer service experience required.

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Office at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/575

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete applications will not be considered for the position.

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• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Saipan Tribune

Kershaw defeats Lincecum, Giants

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Clayton Kershaw was one pitch better than Tim Lincecum in a matchup of All-Star aces, leading Los Angeles past San Francisco 1-0 on Wednesday.

Kershaw (11-4) allowed three hits in eight innings to help the Dodgers snap a four-game losing streak and six straight to the Giants. He struck out 12 to improve his major league lead to 167 this season.

Dioner Navarro's home run off Lincecum (8-8) landed in McCovey Cove and was the only pop Los Angeles showed on a day hitting coach Jeff Pentland was fired. Dave Hansen was promoted on an interim basis for the rest of the season.

Javy Guerra pitched a perfect ninth for his sixth save.

Lincecum allowed five hits in seven-plus innings in another solid start with little run support.

San Francisco's shaggy-haired righty seemed in control on a day he had to be at his dominating best.

Giants All-Star third baseman Pablo Sandoval didn't start because of tightness in his right quadriceps and right fielder Nate Scheirholtz was given the day off. The retooled lineup didn't give Lincecum any room for error.

All it took was one pitch to wash away an otherwise solid start.

"I flinched first," Lincecum said.

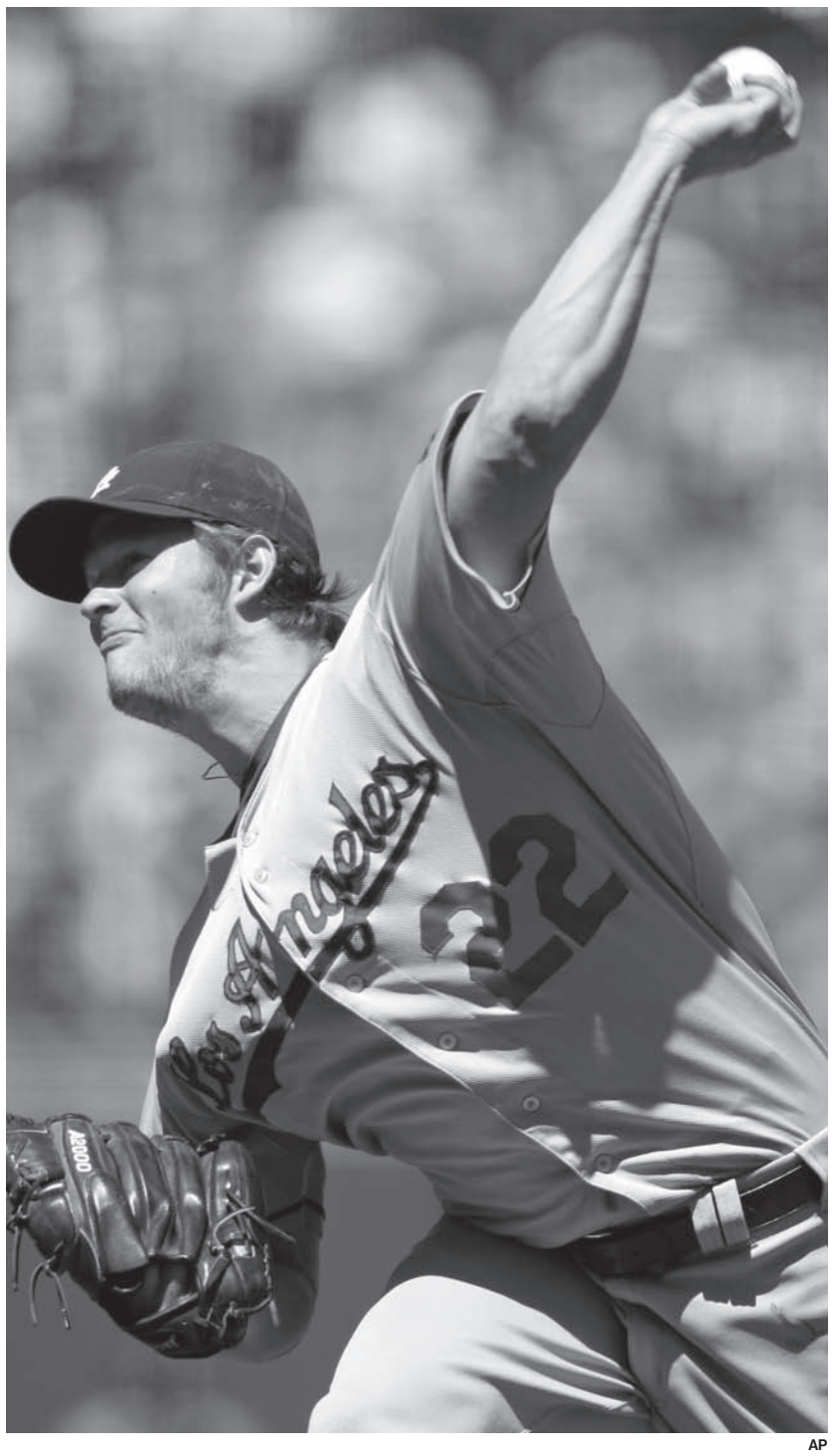
Navarro knew the ball was gone the second he hit it, and he found out watching the video replay in the clubhouse that it found the water—something he's always wanted to do.

"I've been trying to reach that was since day one," Navarro said. "I never could. Not even in batting practice."

That was all the support Los Angeles' ace needed.

The Dodgers committed three errors with some sloppy defense, getting bailed out by Kershaw each time. Navarro twice threw into center field trying to throw out a runner at second only to have Kershaw strand them at third in the first two innings.

Second baseman Jamey Carroll couldn't corral a hard-hit ball by Brandon Belt in the fourth, and the Giants rookie hustled into second. Then Kershaw got Emmanuel Burriss to ground out and end the inning, and San Francisco never got closer.



AP

Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw throws against the San Francisco Giants in the eighth inning of their baseball game in San Francisco, Wednesday, July 20, 2011. Los Angeles won the game 1-0 and Kershaw was the winning pitcher.

Mets 6, Cardinals 5, 10 innings

At New York, Angel Pagan homered with one out in the 10th inning and New York rallied from an early four-run deficit.

Carlos Beltran hit a two-run homer and Josh Thole had two RBIs for the Mets, including a tying single off Jason Motte with two outs in the eighth.

The Cardinals built a 4-0 lead for Kyle McClellan, who is 0-5 in eight starts since beating Houston on May 19.

Matt Holliday had three hits and two RBIs for St. Louis, which has lost four of five since the All-Star break.

Rockies 3, Braves 2

At Denver, Carlos Gonzalez singled home the winning run off Eric O'Flaherty with two outs in the bottom of the ninth to lift Colorado.

O'Flaherty (1-3) retired his first two batters before third baseman Martin Prado let Dexter Fowler's grounder go through his legs for a two-base error. Pinch-hitter Ty Wiggintodrew an intentional walk, and Gonzalez slapped the first pitch into right field, scoring Fowler from second.

Padres 14, Marlins 3

At Miami, Ryan Ludwick and Jesus Guzman both drove in four runs for San Diego.

Will Venable homered, scored three runs, and reached base four times for the Padres, who set a season-high in runs while the 20 hits were their second-highest.

Aaron Harang (8-2) pitched 5 1-3 innings and allowed three runs.

Venable led off the game with a home run off Ricky Nolasco (6-7), who allowed nine runs in 1 1-3 innings. The Padres scored four in the first and nine in the second to build a 13-0 lead on 14 hits.

Phillies 9, Cubs 1

At Chicago, Vance Worley pitched eight dominant innings, Jimmy Rollins homered from both sides of the plate and the Phillies pounded Ryan Dempster at steamy Wrigley Field.

It was another standout performance by Worley (6-1), who won his fourth straight start and continues to give the Phillies all they could ask for with Roy Oswalt and Joe Blanton injured. The 23-year-old right-hander allowed one run and four hits.

Rollins hit solo shots batting left-handed against Ramon Ortiz in the sixth and from the right side against John Grabow in the eighth.

Dempster (7-7) lasted just three innings for Chicago, yielding six runs and seven hits.

Reds 3, Pirates 1

At Pittsburgh, Johnny Cueto gave up one run over six innings, leading Cincinnati to the victory.

Chris Heisey and Jay Bruce had two hits apiece for the Reds, who won for just the second time in nine games this season against the Pirates.

Cueto (6-3) struck out four and walked three while shaving his ERA to 1.98, and four relievers made the lead stand up. Francisco Cordero pitched the ninth to pick up his 19th save.

Pittsburgh's Jeff Karstens (8-5) needed just 76 pitches to get through seven innings, but fell to 1-5 in day games due in part to a pair of errors by shortstop Chase d'Arnaud that opened the door for two Cincinnati runs.

Astros 3, Nationals 2, 11 innings

At Houston, Jason Michaels hit an RBI single in the 11th inning to lift Houston to the victory.

Humberto Quintero started the Houston 11th with a single to right field and advanced on a sacrifice. He took third on a single by Michael Bourn to set up Michaels' clutch hit off Todd Coffey (3-1) that gave the Astros consecutive wins for the first time in more than a month.

Neither team got a hit in a scoreless 10th inning before Jayson Werth doubled with one out in the 11th. Wilton Lopez (2-4) retired the next two Nationals to end the scoring threat.

Brewers 5, Diamondbacls 2

At Phoenix, Arizona lost shortstop Stephen Drew with a broken right ankle, then Milwaukee gave young reliever Ryan Cook a rude welcome to the big leagues with a three-run 10th inning in a 5-2 victory over the Diamondbacks 4-2 on Wednesday night.

Ryan Braun homered in the first inning for the second night in a row, then singled to bring in the second run in the 10th. Nyjer Morgan singled in the go-ahead run in the 10th, and Rickie Weeks had the third RBI hit of the inning.

Drew, the anchor of the Diamondbacks' defense, was hurt sliding into home plate in the fourth inning, pinning his right foot beneath him.

On the next play, Milwaukee center fielder Carlos Gomez left with a broken left collar bone after making a diving catch.

Jays 11, Mariners 6

At Toronto, Travis Snider hit a three-run homer, Brandon Morrow won his fifth straight decision and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Mariners 11-6 on Wednesday night, extending Seattle's losing streak to 11 games.

Adam Lind and Edwin Encarnacion also homered for the Blue Jays, who have won seven of nine.

The losing streak is Seattle's longest since a 12-game skid in 2008. The Mariners have lost 15 of their past 20 overall.

Morrow (7-4) allowed three runs and seven hits in seven innings. The right-hander, who walked three and struck out seven, has not lost since June 11 against Boston.

The Blue Jays jumped on left-hander Jason Vargas (6-8) with a four-run second.

Athletics 7, Tigers 5

At Detroit, Hideki Matsui hit his 500th professional homer and drove in three runs to lead Oakland over the Tigers.

Matsui led off the sixth inning with his milestone homer—168 in the majors and 332 for the Yomiuri Giants—to put Oakland up 3-2 and end Duane Below's night. Below, making his major-league debut, allowed three runs—one earned— in five-plus innings.

Detroit took the lead with three runs in the bottom of the sixth off reliever Joey Devine (1-1).

Tigers reliever David Purcey (1-2), though, walked the first three batters of the seventh before giving way to Joaquin Benoit.

Cliff Pennington singled to make it 5-4, and Josh Willingham's sacrifice fly tied the game. Matsui and Conor Jackson then hit RBI singles to give Oakland a 7-5 lead.

Yankees 4, Rays 0

At Florida, Curtis Granderson backed a solid pitching performance by Freddy Garciawith a two-run homer, leading the Yankees over Tampa Bay.

Garcia (8-7) scattered eight hits, struck out seven and walked none over 6 2-3 innings.

Granderson homered off David Price (9-8) in the first inning. David Robertson pitched a 1-2-3 eighth for the Yankees, and Mariano Rivera added a perfect ninth in a non-save situation to finish the combined shutout.

Price, who is 20-6 all-time against AL East opponents, allowed two runs and six hits in 7 1-3 innings.

Royals 2, White Sox 1, 11 innings

At Kansas City, Sergio Santos threw a wild pitch in the 11th inning that allowed Alex Gordon to score, giving the Royals their 10th win in the final at-bat.

Chris Sale (2-1) retired the first two batters before walking Gordon, who went to third on Mitch Maier's single. Santos then replaced Sale.

Aaron Crow (3-2) worked two scoreless innings, allowing one hit, for the victory.

Red Sox 4, Orioles 0

At Baltimore, Jacoby Ellsbury hit two solo homers, Andrew Miller and three relievers combined on a two-hitter, and Boston completed its sixth consecutive winning road trip.

Ellsbury's homers put the Red Sox up 1-0 in the third inning and 3-0 in the seventh. Both drives came off Jake Arrieta (9-7), who has yielded a team-high 19 long balls in 20 starts.

Miller (4-1) allowed two hits over 5 2-3 innings in a wild but effective performance. The 6-foot-7 lefty issued a career-high six walks and had only one perfect inning.

Twins 7, Indians 5

At Minneapolis, Danny Valencia singled home the go-ahead run for the second straight day, this time in the eighth inning, and Minnesota beat Cleveland.

Matt Capps (3-5) earned the win in relief of Nick Blackburn, who gave up four runs—one earned—in six innings. Joe Nathan gave up a solo homer to Lonnie Chisenhall, but earned his sixth save.

Tony Sipp (4-2) allowed three runs on two hits and a walk in just a third of an inning.

Angels 9, Rangers 8

At Anaheim, Howie Kendrick had three hits and four RBIs, including a tiebreaking two-run single, and the Los Angeles Angels snapped the Texas Rangers' 12-game winning streak with a come-from-behind 9-8 victory Wednesday night.

The Angels trail the defending AL champion Rangers by four games in the West after losing Friday night's series opener 7-0.

Torii Hunter homered for the Angels, whose six-run rally in the sixth inning wouldn't have been possible had it not been for two infield singles to shortstop by Mike Trout and Alberto Callaspo on close plays.

Rangers left-hander Derek Holland, coming off consecutive shutouts against Oakland and Seattle, took an 8-3 lead into the sixth before giving up hits to four of the five batters he faced.

No players vote on proposed NFL deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—The latest twist in the touch-and-go efforts to end the NFL lockout: Players didn't vote Wednesday on a full proposal to settle the labor dispute.

The league, however, said the sides would work through the night to try to have a final agreement ready for ratification Thursday.

A person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press there was agreement among player representatives from all 32 clubs on what items needed to be resolved before any offer would be accepted. A second person, also speaking on condition of anonymity because the talks are supposed to be secret, said those players gave what was termed "conditional approval" of the proposal - as it stood Wednesday.

Even after all acceptable terms are established, it only would lead to a collective bargaining agreement if the team reps recommend re-establishing the NFL Players Association as a union. And that needs to be OK'd by a majority vote of the 1,900 players. Those votes probably would be done on a conference call.

In March, when talks broke down and the old CBA expired, the NFLPA said it was dissolving itself as a union and instead becoming a trade association, a move that allowed Tom Brady and other players to sue the league under antitrust law. Only a union can sign off on a CBA.

"We still have a lot of work to do," said Pro Bowl offensive lineman Tyson Clabo, who played for the Atlanta Falcons last season.

The meeting at NFLPA headquarters lasted nearly 10 hours and included the group's executive committee and the team reps.

In Atlanta, where the owners' labor committee met, NFL general counsel Jeff Pash said the sides would keep talking in hopes of finalizing a deal that is expected to last 10 years, although even that was not 100 percent certain as of Wednesday evening.

"It's obviously a complicated agreement, but I think both sides are at the point where they can close, they should close, and we should be in a position to take votes," Pash, the owners' lead negotiator, said following a five-hour session at a hotel near Atlanta's airport.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell joined the meeting of nine of the 10 members of the labor committee, which hoped to recommend a finalized proposal to all club owners, who are due there on Thursday.

Remaining issues are believed to include how to set aside three pending court cases: The players' antitrust lawsuit against the NFL in federal court in Minnesota; the TV networks case, in which players accused owners of setting up $4 billion in "lockout insurance," money that the league would receive even if there were no games played in 2011; and a collusion case, in which players said owners conspired to restrict salaries last offseason.

"I think that's the healthy outcome: to have a complete, comprehensive, global agreement that settles all the disputes and puts us on a path where we are going forward together as business partners, the way it should be, rather that going forward with one hand and fighting over something that should be in the past," Pash said.

Asked whether owners would consider approving an agreement Thursday, Carolina Panthers owner Jerry Richardson smiled and said: "I'm always ready for a vote."

New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, who is on the labor committee, wasn't expected to participate because his wife, Myra, died Wednesday, at age 68, after a battle with cancer.

Earlier Wednesday, NFLPA president Kevin Mawae cautioned not to assume the lockout will be over by the weekend, saying his group was "not tied" to a deadline for getting a deal done in the next 24 hours.

"We want to go back to work, but we will not agree to a deal unless it's the best deal for the players," Mawae said in the morning.

"Our goal today is to see what is on the table and discuss outlying issues," he said. "The players are not tied to a July 21 timeline. Our timeline is that which gives us the best deal for the players—today, tomorrow or whatever it might be."

If the four-month lockout—the NFL's first work stoppage since 1987—is going to end in time to keep the preseason completely intact, the players and owners almost certainly must ratify the deal by Thursday. The St. Louis Rams and Chicago Bears are scheduled to open the preseason Aug. 7 in the Hall of Fame game.

Asked whether that exhibition game will be played, Pash replied: "We'll see. It's getting tight. It would be pretty challenging. That's one of the things we'll have to focus on."

If owners, as expected, do vote Thursday, at least 24 would need to OK the deal. If it's passed by both sides, team executives would be schooled later that day and Friday in Atlanta in the guidelines and how to apply them; topics would include the 2011 NFL calendar, rookie salary system and new free agency rules.

Ten players—including quarterbacks Peyton Manning and Drew Brees, Chargers receiver Vincent Jackson and Patriots guard Logan Mankins—filed their antitrust suit March 11. That was the day the country's most popular sports league was thrown into limbo, and the owners locked out players hours later.

"Obviously, there's the litigation with the named plaintiffs, and I am not familiar with the whole legal part of it. ... But at the end of the day," Mawae said, "the deal we are working on is the deal that's best for all the players in the NFL, and not just four guys."

AP

NFL Players Association President Kevin Mawae, left, speaks to reporters as he stands with NFL Players Association spokesman George Atallah, right, outside the NFL Players Association offices in Washington, Wednesday, July 20, 2011.

Woods gets rid of Steve Williams as caddie

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Tiger Woods and Steve Williams were together for 12 years and some 250 tournaments, a player-caddie relationship that produced 72 wins, 13 majors and a friendship so strong that each served in the other's wedding.

It ended Wednesday with a stock line from Woods that players use when firing a caddie—"It's time for a change."

The announcement on his website only deepened the mystery around Woods, who has fallen to No. 20 in the world and hasn't played since May because of injuries to his left leg that first were described as "minor."

In the 20 months since Woods was caught having multiple extramarital affairs, he has lost four major sponsors, changed swing coaches, was divorced from his wife and now has cut loose his caddie.

"I want to express my deepest gratitude to Stevie for all his help, but I think it's time for a change," Woods said. "Stevie is an outstanding caddie and a friend and has been instrumental in many of my accomplishments. I wish him great success in the future."

Woods did not say who would replace Williams—one of only two caddies he has employed on a regular basis—or when he might return to golf.

"Needless to say, this came as a shock," Williams said in a statement posted on his own website.

Williams, who previously worked for Greg Norman and Raymond Floyd, worked the last three tournaments for Adam Scott. That included the U.S. Open and British Open, which Woods skipped while trying to let his left leg heal.

"A player has the right to fire a caddie at any given time," Williams told The Associated Press from his summer home in Oregon. "And for a player when he's not playing at his best for extended period of time, it's not uncommon to change caddies, coaches, psychologists or bring on a psychologist. We all know the business. I have no problem being fired. But I'm disappointed in the timing of it."

When asked over the weekend at the British Open if he was still working for Woods, Williams grinned and said, "Why would you ask a question like that?" He never answered the question, but gave no indication that he would not caddie for Woods when he did return.

Turns out he had known for two weeks, and kept quiet out of respect for Scott.

Williams said he met with Woods in a board room at Aronimink after the final round of the AT&T National on July 3, and Woods told him they would no longer work together. Williams said they agreed not to say anything until after the British Open, to keep from being a distraction to Scott.

More than a caddie, Woods and Williams had been close friends. Both got engaged while on safari after The Presidents Cup in South Africa, and they were in each other's weddings. Woods played the New Zealand Open in 2002 as a favor to Williams (he also received a $2 million appearance fee), and he took an interest in Williams' race car driving by taking part in a celebrity race on the dirt tracks of New Zealand.

The relationship began showing signs of strain after Woods crashed his car on Thanksgiving night, followed by stunning revelations of serial adultery.

Despite their friendship, Williams went months without hearing anything from Woods. And it became awkward at times because Woods' ex-wife and Williams' wife were close friends. On the golf course, their body language looked different, and Williams wondered aloud in the spring if the player-caddie relationship was getting stale.

In recent months, Williams was feeling out of touch during Woods' rehabilitation. He was not aware that Woods did not plan to compete in the U.S. Open until after flying to Oregon from New Zealand, where Williams lives most of the year.

"Given the circumstances of the past 18 months working through Tiger's scandal, a new coach and with it a major swing change and Tiger battling through injuries, I am very disappointed to end our very successful partnership at this time," Williams said on his website.

He declined to say whether Woods gave him a specific reason.

Williams has been labeled a bully over the years while working for Woods amid a constant circus. At the 2002 Skins Game, he put a camera into the pond when a photographer snapped a picture in the middle of Woods' swing on the final hole. At the 2004 U.S. Open, he kicked the lens of a New York Daily News photographer, and took the camera away from a fan who turned out to be an off-duty policeman.

He also brought Woods undue attention toward the end of 2008 by making disparaging remarks about Phil Mickelson during a charity dinner in New Zealand, then repeating them when a reporter called for comment the following day. Woods intervened and told Williams to apologize.

Williams is only the second caddie that Woods has hired on a regular basis during his 14-year career on the PGA Tour. He started with Mike "Fluff" Cowan, whom he fired after the Nissan Open at Riviera in 1999. His childhood friend, Bryon Bell, caddied for Woods when he won the Buick Invitational in 1999, and Woods gave Bell a chance to "defend" at Torrey Pines in 2000 when Woods was going for a seventh straight PGA Tour win.

YVONNE

From Page 32

Omar joined the World Championships in Osaka, Japan. The two years later, Bennett was selected anew to wear the colors of the Commonwealth, but unfortunately, she wasn't able to run in the 100m qualifying heat due to sickness.

"I would say this is like my second chance and I am confident about having an impressive race, as I will be running in my favorite event—the 200m race," Bennett said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

When she debuted in the World Championships in Japan via the 100m qualifying heat, the 21-year-old sprinter clocked in 13.16 seconds to break the CNMI record (13.57 seconds), which she also set. Since 2007, Bennett shattered the CNMI mark in the 100m run several times and the latest was the 12.52 seconds she posted in last month's 2011 Oceania Regional Championships in Apia, Samoa.

"Going into the world champs this year, which is my third, is different from the first two because since then I have develop so much as an athlete and I definitely know what to expect when I go and compete. In the last two world champs I was entered in the 100m dash, so the competitive level has for sure risen. I am ready to go and give it everything I got and put all my training to the test just like I do in every race," the Boise State University track and field team member said.

Bennett is thankful that BSU and her coach allowed her to represent the CNMI anew in the World Championships.

"I had to go to our compliance office at BSU and ask about competing in Korea and rules under NCAA allow student-athletes to participate in word championships so it was not problem at all. My coach is very supportive when he found out I was going to compete again, so he was all for it too," Bennett said.

In Korea, Bennett will be aiming to break her own 200m record, which stands at 25.67 seconds.

"My goal in Korea is to drop my time and hopefully break another national record. To reach that goal I am continually training daily and working more on my running form and finishing strong in the last five meters of the 200m," she said.

Joining Bennett in Korea is fellow sprinter Orrin Joseph Ogumoro Pharmin and Northern Marianas Athletics president Ray Tebuteb.

ASPAC

From Page 32

playing time.

CNMI started its ASPAC bid with a 10-0 blowout of the Philippines, only to fizzle out in its next two games before fumbling a four-run lead with three outs to go in its make-or-break match against Guam.

The Commonwealth absorbed a 0-7 shutout loss at the hands of Korea and then bowed to Hong Kong for the first time, 5-8. Then against Guam, CNMI officials seemed to have given away the win to the host after a controversial rain delay was supposed to grant the victory to visitors

CNMI led, 4-0, after five innings when heavy rains halted the game. Guam Little League officials convinced the CNMI staff to pause play for the second time (the match had already been previously postponed when it rained on July 13). When game resumed Guam launched a four-run rally to extend the match and eventually won after three bonus frames, 7-4

Guam defeated the CNMI fair and square in the clutch, but the game could have been awarded to the latter by default. During the contentious decision, CNMI District Administrator James Ada indicated the 30-minute window requiring event officials to rule on a rained-out game to his Guam counterpart, Steven Guerrero. However, it was left up to the CNMI coaching staff to make the final decision.

The Commonwealth was eliminated after the crucial loss and watched the rest of the tournament from the grand stands.

"We started off with a strong win, but the kids lost their focus and did not come out with the same fire in the next two games and in my opinion, the coaches didn't do much both in preparation or at game time. They didn't really push the kids to step up when they lethargically took their positions out in the field. They made pitching changes when they perhaps should made defensive adjustments and also stiffed a number of good players to just one at bat per game," Cepeda said.

Notably, Saipan Little League's top batters Cedric Camacho and Perry Celis were visibly under utilized in the CNMI lineup and a number of players did not take the field at their previously selected positions.

Cepeda was also disappointed with the team's lack of preparation for the ASPAC closing ceremony, which team manager Chel Castro did not even attend. Ada appeared, but left early.

"The other teams, especially the title contenders, were very organized and disciplined throughout the week, but our players were running around all over the place in the hotel and at the closing ceremony. This was my first-ever ASPAC experience and I was disappointed to see that we did not take the event as seriously as the other groups. We treated it like more of a vacation than a competition," Cepeda said.

"For example, I learned that it is customary for teams to come up with a skit to perform at the ceremony, but we never discussed this and had to scramble and make something up at the last second. I was worried, but the coaches didn't even care. The manager wasn't even there and our district administrator left early," Cepeda added.

Cepeda saved assistant coach George Camacho from the fire, adding that Camacho was the only coach who reprimanded players for being rambunctious. Cepeda said Castro, head coach Randall Aguon, and Ada routinely looked the other way.

Cepeda said he was frustrated with the Saipan Little League board members' selection of the coaching staff.

"Aside from head coach Randall Aguon (from the runner up Bank of Saipan Red Sox), it doesn't make sense why no one from the undefeated Pacific Amusement-Juan S. Santiago Jets or third place DPS Enforcers represented the coaching staff," Cepeda sid.

Cepeda urges the board to communicate next year's election date in a timely manner and pleads for a larger voter turnout among parents to avoid the same problems.

Cepeda also wishes to split the fundraising efforts per division instead of using one big pool for all four age groups, He also suggest having independent fundraising efforts throughout the season.

"We can't depend on the government to provide funds for the teams. The Saipan Little League is a non-profit organization and it's not the government's responsibility," Cepeda added.

As for the selection of players, Cepeda suggests that a tryout is held after the season to better evaluate players' attitudes and talent and ensure healthy team chemistry heading into the competition.

On a brighter note, Cepeda had a long list of supporters that helped the team during its ASPAC run.

"I'd like to send a special thanks to Guam Vice Mayors Pete Benavente of Dededo and Jun Blas of Barrigada for providing transportation and meals during our stay. They helped us out a lot, especially on the last day when we had over an eight-hour layover before our departure. A big thanks also goes to assistant coach George Camacho and the House leadership for their $12,000 private donation, Wings Travel for holding our flight reservations, Senator Ralph Torres, Island Apparel for the uniforms, Pete Guerrero for providing the CNMI flag, Mr. Lee, for providing the CNMI banner, Ho Joon Joo and P&A Corporation, Pacific Amusement, Torres Brothers-LLC, Juan S. Santiago, J's Restaurant, and all the parents who helped out with the coin drives," Cepeda said.

TALE

From Page 32

against Japan in May. Star forward Abby Wambach, after recovering from a broken leg in 2008, was suffering from Achilles tendonitis, something that was still plaguing her during the World Cup and veteran captain Christie Rampone was playing with Lyme disease, something she is still struggling with.

New players emerged, old ones retired, and the Americans found themselves struggling for consistency. But after the long road to the World Cup, they believed this was their destiny—that the road they had taken was in fact the one most desired. All these losses and struggles were just preparing them for victory

After beating Brazil in a thrilling quarterfinal match despite falling behind in overtime, the Americans' destiny seemed clearer. They were two games away from a World Cup championship after defeating one of the best teams in the world and having barely qualified for the World Cup. The U.S. went on to beat a very skilled France, 3-1, to make it to the final, thanks to its ability to put away its chances.

The U.S.' foe in the finals was Japan, a country struggling to recover from the devastating earthquake and tsunami three months before the World Cup? Players on the team had family and friends affected by the disaster and parts of their beloved country were left in ruins.

The Japanese team, though its is one of the most technical teams in the world, struggled to gauge its chances in games prior to the World Cup and it became even more evident as it lost to the U.S. in the two warm-up matches in May. The Japanese came into the tournament as a favorite to finish on top of their group but just like the U.S., the former lost their final game to England, and ended up in second place.

This left the Japanese the tough task to play the heavily favorite Germany in the quarterfinals. No one gave them a chance, but after holding Germany scoreless in regulation, Japan scored an amazing goal in overtime to stun the Germans and advance to the semifinals. The Japanese continued their winning run with a 3-1 victory over Sweden to make it to the World Cup final.

Thus came the game of destiny. Both teams had almost identical paths to the final. Each team won the first two group play games, before dropping their respective last match . In the U.S.' win over Brazil and Japan's victory against Germany, the finalists displayed courage and determination to pull off upsets versus the two favorite teams in the quarterfinals.

In front of a sold-out crowd of about 49,000, I watched the U.S. and Japan put on a fantastic show of soccer. The players were intense and the crowd was emotional, as people came in numbers to watch one of the finest soccer games in history.

The Americans scored first off Alex Morgan's goal in the second half, but the Japanese equalized in the 82nd minute to send the game into overtime. The U.S.' leading scorer, Wambach, scored her fourth goal of the tournament in overtime to give the team a 2-1 lead and it appeared the Americans were headed to victory.

However, Japan roared back, feeding off the energy from the crowd, and scored again to make it 2-2 with only three minutes left. The game was then decided on penalty kicks and the Americans suffered a big blow.

I felt after Japan scored that if it got to penalty kicks, the U.S. was going to lose. Sure, they had the best goalkeeper in the tournament and of course they made all five in the game against Brazil, but Japan had all the momentum. Sure enough, the Americans made only one out of four kicks, while Japan made three and missed only one.

Japan became the first Asian country to ever win a Women's World Cup. Though the Americans displayed great toughness and grit during the tournament, they came out as second best. As the confetti came down and the Japanese held up the coveted World Cup, I knew destiny had prevailed. The Americans though they hadn't won a World Cup since 1999 and were hungrier than ever, maybe didn't need this as much as the Japanese. After all the tragedies that hit Japan in recent months, a World Cup victory seemed, well, like destiny.

AYE

From Page 32

ing for 16 markers, while Angie Ito chipped in six.

Then in the second half, the lack of enough manpower took its toll on Mix-A-Lot, while Aye Par Battay's starting five played solid en route to an 11-point win.

Mendoza added eight more markers in the second half, while Nicole Arboliras knocked in 10 of her 12 points in that frame, as Aye Par Battay outgunned Mix-A-Lot, 26-16.

Mendoza finished with 16 points, Palero added 13, and Arboliras and Ito contributed 12 and 10, respectively.

In the first game, Party Rockers notched its seventh win in eight games after beating the Lazy Buttsss, 74-62.

The Party Rockers' victory snapped the Lazy Buttsss' two-game winning streak and gave the latter a 2-6 mark

The Lazy Buttsss had the lead in the first half, 33-30, but lost the upper hand in the second half when it allowed Kaylani Lebria to pile up points in the final 20 minutes of play.

Lebria, who was silent in the closing stage of the first half, posted 15 markers in the second, including seven of the Party Rockers' last 13 points. Kayla Ito also stepped up in the second half, making all her six points in that period, while Jeraldine Castillo was consistent with her offensive game, adding seven.

Lebria led all scorers with her 23 points, while Castillo and Melody Johnson tallied 14 and 12, respectively.

Ira Palero paced the Lazy Buttsss with her 18 points, while Elilai Pialug and Daylinne Joseph added 12 apiece.

Meanwhile, the three-round robin regular season of the women's league will conclude today with Party Rockers taking on Mix-A-Lot in the first match at 5:30pm and the Lazy Buttsss colliding against Aye Par Battay in the second game at 6:30pm.

First Game

Party Rockers 74 – Lebria 23, Castillo 14, Johnson 12, Ito 6, Gozon 6, Abrams 3, Samson 2.

Lazy Buttsss 62 – Palero 18, Pialug 12, Joseph 12, Rios 9, Mettao 5.

Scoring by halves: 33-30, 74-62.

Second Game

Aye Par Battay 51 – Mendoza 16, Palero 13, Arboliras 12, Ito 10.

Mix-A-Lot 40 – Alegre 18, Iriarte 14, De Luna 4, Palacios 4.

Scoring by halves: 25-24, 51-40.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	59	37	.615	–
New York	57	38	.600	1 1/2
Tampa Bay	51	45	.531	8
Toronto	49	49	.500	11
Baltimore	39	56	.411	19 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	51	46	.526	–
Detroit	51	46	.526	–
Chicago	47	51	.480	4 1/2
Minnesota	46	51	.474	5
Kansas City	40	58	.408	11 1/2

West Division

Texas	56	42	.571	–
Los Angeles	52	46	.531	4
Seattle	43	54	.443	12 1/2
Oakland	43	55	.439	13

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	61	36	.629	–
Atlanta	57	41	.582	4 1/2
New York	49	48	.505	12
Washington	48	50	.490	13 1/2
Florida	47	51	.480	14 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	53	46	.535	–
Pittsburgh	51	45	.531	1/2
St. Louis	50	47	.515	2
Cincinnati	48	50	.490	4 1/2
Chicago	39	60	.394	14
Houston	33	65	.337	19 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	57	42	.576	–
Arizona	52	46	.531	4 1/2
Colorado	47	51	.480	9 1/2
Los Angeles	43	55	.439	13 1/2
San Diego	43	55	.439	13 1/2

Yesterday's Games

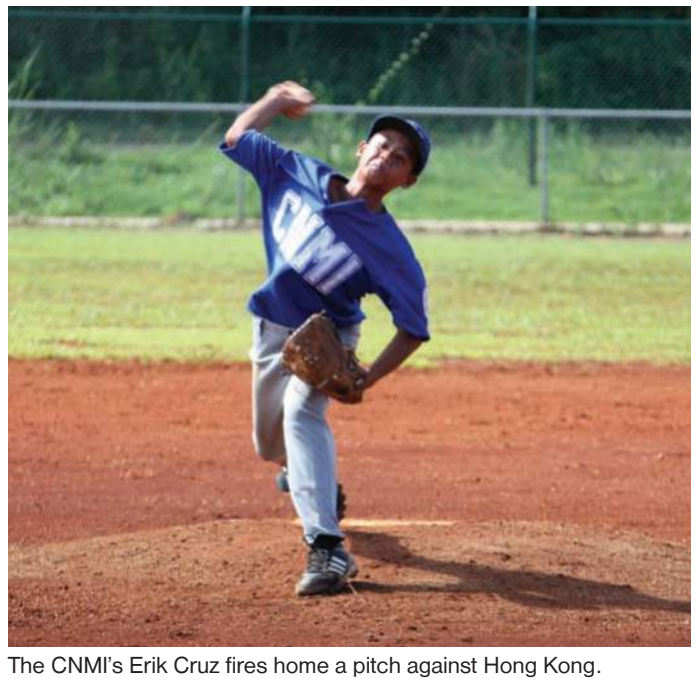
Cincinnati 3, Pittsburgh 1
Houston 3, Washington 2, 11 innings
Philadelphia 9, Chicago Cubs 1
L.A. Dodgers 1, San Francisco 0
San Diego 14, Florida 3
N.Y. Mets 6, St. Louis 5, 10 innings
Colorado 3, Atlanta 2
Milwaukee 5, Arizona 2, 10 innings
Boston 4, Baltimore 0
Minnesota 7, Cleveland 5
Oakland 7, Detroit 5
Toronto 11, Seattle 6
N.Y. Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 0
Kansas City 2, Chicago White Sox 1, 11 innings
L.A. Angels 9, Texas 8

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

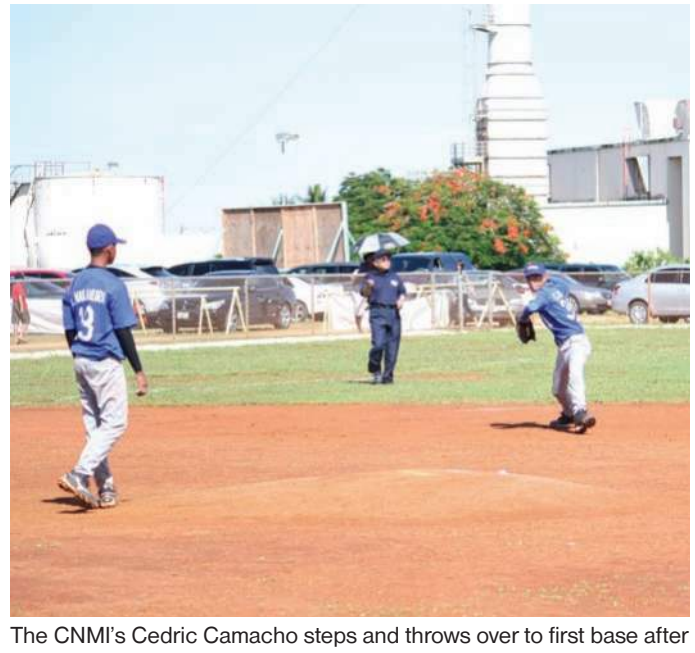
2011 Little League Asia-Pacific Regional Championship

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

CNMI third baseman Allen Cepeda throws over to first base after fielding a grounder against Guam during the 2011 Little League Asia-Pacific Regional Championship at the Northern Region Sports Complex in Guam last week.



The CNMI's Erik Cruz fires home a pitch against Hong Kong.



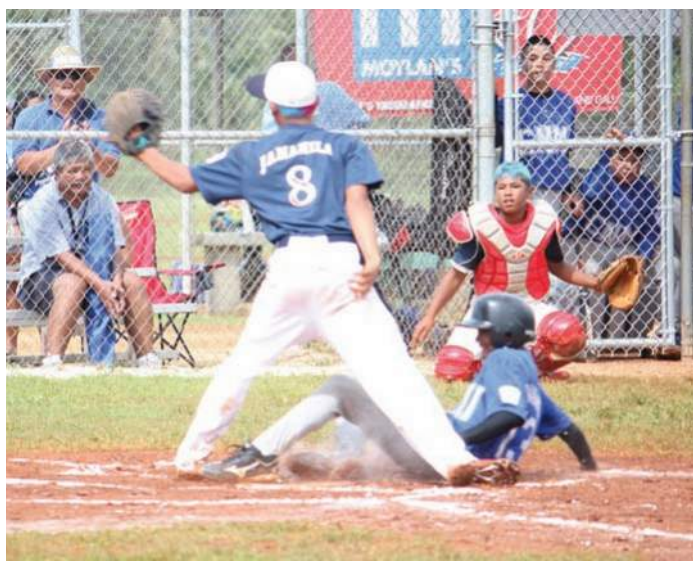
The CNMI's Cedric Camacho steps and throws over to first base after fielding a ground ball against Korea.

The CNMI's Franco Nakamura is cheered by head coach Randall Aguon after belting a triple against Guam.

The CNMI's Jonathan Camacho, left, pulls in a fly ball at left field against Guam.

CNMI ace pitcher Nathan Camacho launches home a pitch against Guam.

The CNMI's Virgil Secharmidal minimizes his strike zone at the plate against Guam.



The CNMI's Franco Nakamura slides safely into home plate off a passed ball against Guam.

CNMI short stop Rokie Tenorio steps on second base to close an inning against Korea.

Members of the CNMI Major All-Stars congratulate Korea after their game.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Yvonne aims for redemption in Korea

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After a forgettable stint in Germany in 2009, Micronesia's fastest woman Yvonne Bennett is out to redeem herself in the 2011 IAAF World Championships in Daegu, Korea next month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Yvonne Bennett, third left, races in the 200m run during the 2011 Oceania Regional Championships in Apia, Samoa last month.

Bennett will be racing in the 200m event in this year's World Championships, which will run from Aug. 27 to Sept. 4 at the Daegu Stadium. It will be Bennett's third time to represent the CNMI to the biennial event, but only her second race in the prestigious competition.

In 2007, she and Tyrone

See YVONNE on Page 30

By ZOE JEWELL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Zoe Jewell is a member of the CNMI national women's soccer team.

AP
Japan's Homare Sawa lifts the trophy following the final match between Japan and the United States at the Women's Soccer World Cup in Frankfurt, Germany, Sunday, July 17, 2011. Japan won the match in a penalty shootout.

Tale of two destinies

Germany—Destiny is another word that we use to describe fate. Destiny is something that is meant to be. Destiny is the hope that no matter what the circumstances are, everything will fall into place. And for the U.S. National and the Japan National teams, one destiny was fulfilled.

Was it the U.S.? The Americans' epic run to the World Cup final started last November when they lost in the qualifying tournament to Mexico, their first ever defeat in a qualification tournament. They eventually regrouped and beat Italy in a two-game playoff series for the last spot in the World Cup, but the Americans hopes of winning a World Cup seemed bleak.

They then lost to Sweden in the beginning of the year in penalty kicks at the Four Nations Tournament, and then lost to England in April, 2-1. Championship quality teams didn't play this way, and it looked as if the U.S. was beginning to lose its dominance.

The women's game has improved greatly over the past few years, both technically and tactically, and the Americans could no longer rely on their superior fitness and strength to win games. Finally, they got back on track to beat their future final opponent, Japan, 2-0 twice in May, and Mexico, 1-0, in June, but still they were not in top form.

For the Americans, the road to the World Cup was not easy. Goalkeeper Hope Solo had a possible career-ending shoulder surgery in September and only fully recovered in April. In fact, her first 90-minute game since the surgery was

See TALE on Page 30

ASPAC setback upsets Cepeda

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The father of a member of the CNMI Major All-Stars expressed disappointment on how the squad was managed during the 2011 Little League Asia-Pacific Regional Championship and hopes for a better performance next season.

Dave Cepeda, who watched the CNMI youth sluggers played last week at the Northern Region Sports Complex in Dededo, Guam, felt that the team had the talent to compete at an even higher level, but was let down by poor management from the coaching staff.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Dave Cepeda, third right, joins other CNMI players in cheering for the team during their game against Hong Kong in the 2011 Little League Asia-Pacific Regional Championship held at the Northern Region Sports Complex in Guam last week.

"I saw the other teams and honestly believe that we can beat Korea and Chinese-Taipei, but our coaches did not do their part in disciplining the kids during the event. I understand that baseball is a game and that the kids should have fun out there, but this competition is a world renowned event and I know we can do a much better job preparing our players to represent the CNMI," Cepeda said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Cepeda observed that players were not going to bed on time and were shuffling in and out of the hotel to go shopping with their families instead of focusing on baseball, the primary purpose of their Guam trip. He added that practices were never conducted, even on the team's off day and some deserving players were not given enough

See ASPAC on Page 30

Aye Par Battay snaps skid in women's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Aye Par Battay is back on track after defeating Mix-A-Lot, 51-40, in the second game in the 2011 TSL Women's Summer Basketball League on Wednesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

The victory ended Aye Par Battay's three-game losing skid and improved the squad's record to 4-4 for second place in the team standings behind the league-leading Party Rockers (7-1). Mix-A-Lot continued its slide, absorbing its third loss in the last four games for a 3-5 mark.

Mix-A-Lot's Madeleine Alegre, right, sneaks in to steal the ball from Aye Par Battay' Joana Palero during their game in the summer women's league Wednesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mix-A-Lot failed to regain its form in its penultimate game when it missed the services of top-scorer Lalaine Pagarao, who was on another venue, playing in a futsal league.

Though Mix-A-Lot played sans Pagarao, it remained it contention in the first half, behind by only a hair at halftime, 24-25. Madeleine Alegre kept Mix-A-Lot in the match with her 10 points in the first 20 minutes of play.

Jaime Mendoza and Joana Palero teamed up for Aye Par Battay in the first half, combin-

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